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Flag Salute

(Note: In these days when armies are marching and there is much talk of loyalty and democracy on all fronts in America, it is being said that the strongest defense of democracy lies in the unity of all groups in the nation and a conviction that each has a stake in a democratic government. When it was announced in Washington on October 9, almost simultaneously, that the federal anti-lynching bill had been killed in the Senate and that Negro Americans would be segregated and discriminated against in the U. S. armed forces, THE CRISIS received several requests to reprint this poem. It was written after a lynching which occurred in Princess Anne, Maryland, October 18, 1933.)

"I pledge allegiance to the flag"—

They dragged him naked
Through the muddy streets,
A feeble-minded black boy!
And the charge? Supposed assault
Upon an aged woman!

"Of the United States of America"—

One mile they dragged him
Like a sack of meal,
A rope around his neck,
A bloody ear
Left dangling by the patriotic hand
Of Nordic youth! (A boy of seventeen!)

"And to the Republic for which it stands"—

And then they hanged his body to a tree,
Below the window of the county judge
Whose pleadings for that battered human flesh
Were stifled by the brutish, raucous howls
Of men, and boys, and women with their babes,
Brought out to see the bloody spectacle
Of murder in the style of '33!
(Three thousand strong, they were!)

"One Nation, Indivisible"—

To make the tale complete
They built a fire—
What matters that the stuff they burned
Was flesh—and bone—and hair—
And reeking gasoline!

"With Liberty—and Justice"—

They cut the rope in bits
And passed them out,
For souvenirs, among the men and boys!
The teeth no doubt, on golden chains
Will hang
About the favored necks of sweethearts, wives,
And daughters, mothers, sisters, babies, too!

"For ALL!"

—ESTHER POPEL

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College and School News

Gammon Theological Seminary observed its formal Matriculation Day exercises Friday, Oct. 11, 1940. Dr. N. C. McPherson, Jr., Pastor of the Peachtree Road Methodist Church, delivered the principal address.

Bennett College has added these new courses: "Consumer Economics" (Dr. Alberta Turner) and "An Introduction to the Literature of Ancient India" by Dr. Henry Nau. The theme of the October 19 Conference of Advisors to Youth in the Schools of North Carolina, held at Bennett, was "Youth and National Defense". The speakers were all members of President Roosevelt's Commission of National Defense. Contracts have been let for the new chapel ($150,000) and the new dormitory for juniors ($81,000) accommodating 65 young women. The chapel is the gift of Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer of New York. The dormitory is the gift of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Church. Negro mechanics will be used wherever possible.

The Golden Anniversary of West Virginia State College will be celebrated from March 17 to May 3, 1941. The original building is being razed to be replaced by a $250,000 structure housing the Health Division. Registration this term reached an all-time high with 900 students.

Over 300 students registered for courses at Shaw University this term, making the largest Shaw freshman class since 1935.

Enrolled for advanced work at Atlanta University this term are 98 men and women graduates of 38 colleges and universities in the U.S.A. and Haiti. New additions to the faculty are: Dr. Ossip K. Flechtheim (political science) former member of the Research Society of Officials of the International Labor Office, who has studied at several European universities and has had a distinguished career as lawyer and judge in Germany; Miss Anne Hawkins (assistant dietitian) of New York City; Pierce M. Thompson (library) of New York, and Miss Mable King

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(assistant, Bursar's office) of Earlington, Ky. Miss Hawkins graduated from Spelman High School and Pratt School of Household Science and Arts and holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from Teachers College, Columbia Univ. She has had wide experience as dietitian and home economics teacher. Mr. Thompson graduated from Morehouse College in June, 1938, and has studied at the Library School of Columbia Univ. Miss King is a 1940 Spelman College graduate.

The annual convocation of the School of Religion of **Howard University** will be held November 12, 13 and 14. Main addresses will be delivered by many noted speakers. This School reports a twenty per cent increase in enrollment for the school year 1940-41 over that of 1939-40. The total enrollment is 52.

Awarded the Ph.D. degree in chemistry at Cornell University this summer, was Prof. Kelso B. Morris, associate professor of biology at **Wiley College.** From the same university he received the M.S. degree in 1937. He is a member of the honorary scholastic society, Sigma Xi. His articles have appeared in the Journal of Chemical Education which will publish a portion of his Ph. D. thesis.

Dr. Malcolm S. MacLean will be formally inaugurated as president of **Hampton Institute** on November 25. He is Hampton's sixth president. He was formerly Dean of the General College, University of Minnesota.

Over 365 new students have enrolled at **Spelman College.** New faculty and staff appointments: Dr. Irville Fay Davidson of New York (Classics); Dr. Alice Hotchkiss of Santa Barbara, Calif. (History); Miss Roberta Burbeck of Duluth, Minn. (Home Economics); Miss Nazen Kazian of Athens, Greece (Home Ec.); Miss Julia Ruth Denham of Buffalo, N. Y. (Dance); Miss Eugenia Dunn of Louisville, Ky. (lab. ass't); Miss Henrietta Herod of Indianapolis, Ind. (Chairman, English Dep't); Miss Evelyn Fleming, formerly of the Mission Training School in Philadelphia (sec'y to Dean); Miss Isabel Torrance, Ausable, N. Y. (sec'y to Pres.). Graduate assistants appointed are: Miss Matilda Lynette Saine, Greensboro, N. C.; Miss Alma Stone, Industrial College, Ga.; and Miss Anatol Reeves, Bahamas Islands.

Willis Laurence James, member of the music faculty and noted collector of obscure spirituals, has been commissioned by the G. Schirmer Co. to prepare two collections of Negro spirituals

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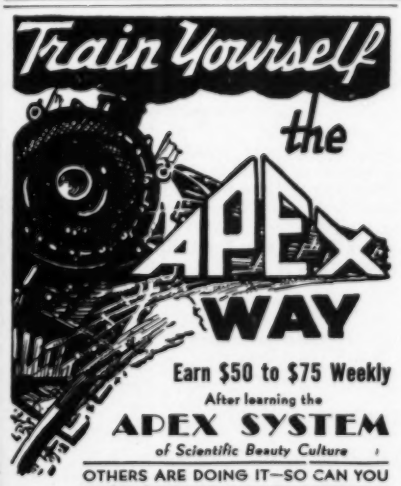

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Returning after a year of study are Lawrence A. Davis, Kansas State College, English; Joseph A. Bailey, University of Minnesota, Economics and Government.

Instructors on leave for 1940-41 are William L. Fields, Indiana University, Mathematics; Dean John W. Parker, Ohio State University, English; Frank B. Adair, Harvard University, Business Management (General Education Board Fellowship); James W. Lee, University of Iowa, Biology; Bridges A. Turner, Pennsylvania State College, Mechanic Arts (General Education Board Fellowship).

Charles M. Ashe of Philadelphia, noted aviator, is teaching **Lincoln Uni-**

(*Continued on page* 365)

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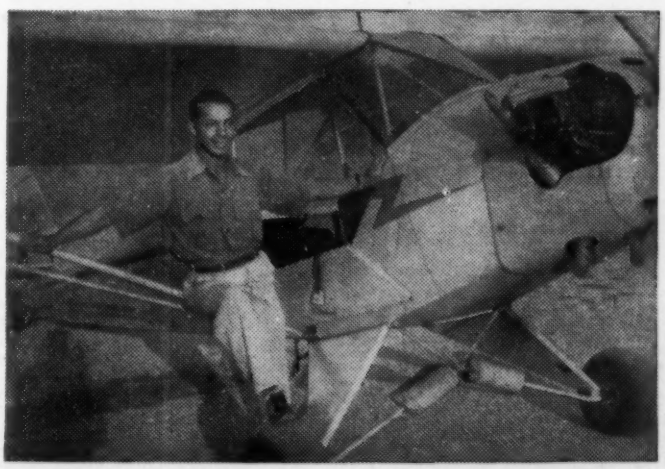

Chas. M. Ashe, Aviation Instructor, Lincoln University (Mo.)

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THE CRISIS *was founded in* 1910. *It is published monthly at* 69 *Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., by Crisis Publishing Company, Inc., and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The subscription price is* $1.50 *a year or* 15*c a copy. Foreign subscriptions* $1.75. *The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscriber may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* THE CRISIS *uses every care it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November* 2, 1910, *at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March* 3, 1879, *and additional second class entry at Albany, N. Y.*

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NEXT MONTH

William Harrison writes from Boston a new article on Crispus Attucks, the first man to be killed in the Revolutionary war.

There will be also the second article in the series of three by Rabbi Harry Essrig. The title will be "Some Jewish Associates of John Brown."

Selma Gordon writes on the American Negro Exposition held in Chicago last summer.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Corinne Dean has written a number of charming stories for THE CRISIS. Her piece in this issue is a translation and adaptation from the original French text, "L'Or Espagnol," of Leon Lemmonier.

Vera L. Williams lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

Constance E. H. Daniel is connected with the Information Service of the Farm Security Administration.

Layle Lane was recently elected vice-president-at-large of the American Federation of Teachers, the only organization of teachers affiliated with labor. Miss Lane has been a member of local 5 of the Federation for seventeen years and served as its secretary for three years. She teaches social studies at Benjamin Franklin high school in New York City, and writes a column for the New York *Age*.

Moss Hyles Kendrix is assistant educational supervisor for Negroes of the N.Y.A. for Georgia.

POETRY CONTEST

Dr. Charles Edward Russell of Washington, D. C., one of the founders of the NAACP, and a member of THE CRISIS editorial board, offers a prize of ten dollars to the writer of the best lyrical poem submitted to THE CRISIS. His stipulations are:

1. Open to all colored writers.
2. Poems to be not more than 20 lines each. Any contestant may submit three poems.
3. No Free Verse lunacies. Blank verse in its usual form will be accepted. If rhyme is used every line must be rhymed.
4. Other things being equal, preference will be given to poems in the fixed forms—sonnets, rondeaux, etc.
5. THE CRISIS to have the right to select ten of the poems submitted for publication at its discretion.
6. Contest closes January 15, 1941. Send entries to Poetry Contest Editor, THE CRISIS, 69 Fifth avenue, New York, N. Y.

Editorials

Editor, ROY WILKINS
Advisory Board: Lewis Gannett, Arthur B. Spingarn, Sterling A. Brown, William Allan Neilson, Walter White, Charles Edward Russell, Carl Murphy, John Hammond

The Roosevelt Record

ON the subject of the Negro, the Roosevelt record is spotty, as might be expected in an administration where so much power is in the hands of the southern wing of the Democratic party. And yet Mr. Roosevelt, hobbled as he has been by the Dixie die-hards, has managed to include Negro citizens in practically every phase of the administration program. In this respect, no matter how far behind the ideal he may be, he is far ahead of any other Democratic president, and of recent Republican ones.

The best proof that Mr. Roosevelt has not catered always to the South and has insisted on carrying the Negro along with his program is to be found in the smearing, race-hating propaganda used against him in the 1936 campaign by southern white groups. Both he and Mrs. Roosevelt were targets of filthy mud-slinging simply because they did not see eye to eye with the South on the Negro.

This does not mean that the Roosevelt administration has done all that it could have done for the race. Its policies in many instances have done Negroes great injustice and have helped to build more secure walls of segregation.

On the anti-lynching bill Mr. Roosevelt has said not a mumbling word. His failure to endorse this legislation, to bring pressure to break the filibuster, is a black mark against him. It does no good to say that the White House could not pass down some word on this bill. The White House spoke on many bills. Mr. Roosevelt might have pressed the anti-lynching bill to a vote, especially during January and February, 1938, when there was tremendous public opinion supporting the bill. His failure to act, or even speak, on the anti-lynching bill was the more glaring because, while mobs in America were visiting inhumanities upon Negroes, Mr. Roosevelt periodically was rebuking some foreign government for inhumanity, and enunciating high sentiments of liberty, tolerance, justice, etc.

The Anti-lynching Bill

To declare that the Roosevelt administration has tried to include the Negro in nearly every phase of its program for the people of the nation is not to ignore the instances where government policies have harmed the race.

At Boulder dam, for example, the administration continued the shameful policy begun by Hoover of forbidding Negroes to live in Boulder City, the government-built town. And in its own pet project, the TVA, the administration forbid Negroes to live in Norris, another government-built town at Norris dam.

Full credit must go to the administration for its program of low-cost housing, so sorely needed by low-income families. No one pretends that the American housing program is more than a beginning, but Negroes have shared in it in the most equitable manner. However, there were, outside the slum-clearance program, some damaging practices. The FHA, which insures mortgages for home buyers, has enforced a regulation which puts the power and approval of the government on ghetto life. No Negro family which sought a home outside the so-called "Negro" neighborhood could get a FHA-insured loan.

Housing

The vast program for youth, the CCC and the NYA, has included our young people, but in the CCC a justifiable complaint has been that Negro instructors, advisers, and reserve army officers were not appointed in any but the tiniest proportion.

There is little need to mention relief and the WPA. Mr. Roosevelt's critics concede what his administration has done in these two branches of his program by concentrating their attack upon the relief that the New Deal has given Negroes. In relief the government set the tone. That tone was so much higher than the city, county and state standards for Negroes in certain areas that, even though differentials existed, the net result was more than it would have been without government supervision. Collective bargaining and the Wages and Hours act have aided Negro workers in private industry.

Relief, WPA

The farm program has not been ideally administered, but colored people have shared in the benefits. More than 50,000 families have been assisted by the Farm Security administration.

Mr. Roosevelt had the courage to appoint a Negro to a federal judgeship, the first in the history of the country. His nominee was confirmed by a Democratic senate without a murmur. Complaint has been made that in naming about a score of colored administrative assistants and advisers, Mr. Roosevelt has kept Negroes out of any real posts in the government. If it be true that Mr. Roosevelt has created Negro appendages to various bureaus, it cannot be denied that colored people know more about their government and have penetrated nearer to policy-making desks than ever before.

Appointments

Heavily on the debit side is Mr. Roosevelt's approval of the War department's notorious jim crow in the armed services.

Most important contribution of the Roosevelt administration to the age-old color line problem in America has been its doctrine that Negroes are a part of the country and must be considered in any program for the country as a whole. The inevitable discriminations notwithstanding, this thought has been driven home in thousands of communities by a thousand specific acts. For the first time in their lives, government has taken on meaning and substance for the Negro masses.

Part of the People

It is foolish to deny the imperfections and shortcomings of the New Deal. But the trend always has been toward a kind of government which has meaning for the people. The New Deal could not perform miracles. It could not overturn intrenched prejudices. The poor and the underprivileged, among whom are to be found most Negroes, need not look for comparison to the days of Herbert Hoover. They need only glance about them to see who is against the present administration. We are all Americans. We all seek security, justice, liberty, peace. But by what methods? And for whom? For *all*, or for certain groups?

Negro voters are posed a question on November 5: Do they believe that in spite of admitted mistakes and failures (both as to them and to government generally) the Roosevelt administration is tending toward the kind of government that is best for the majority of the people; or has the Roosevelt record on the Negro specifically and on the government generally been such that a new administration should be voted into power?

Black Pirates on the Spanish Main

A Translation by Corinne Dean

Sir Francis Drake, the English buccaneer, captured rich booty in the New World only with the help of the feared Cimarrons, the black scourges of the Spaniards

OF the seven slave ships which John Hawkins had brought to the Caribbean Sea, there remained (after his battle with the Spaniards at San Juan de Ulua, port of Vera Cruz) only two, and they much overloaded with men and provisions. His flag ship the "Jesus of Lubeck" had been abandoned along with the wounded and some 50 slaves.

Drake's ship, the Judith, armed too lightly, had not taken part in the combat. Hawkins (after boarding the Mignon) ordered his cousin Drake to approach and to take on board as many men and as much cargo as he could. The next day a north wind separated the Judith from the Mignon and Drake decided to return to England alone. His conduct caused him to be accused of deserting and abandoning his cousin and superior officer.

In fact, Hawkins was in a bad fix. Lacking food, his men were reduced to eating leather; of the animals on board, not one escaped: rats and mice, dogs and cats; then came the turn of animals which the sailors were proud to bring forth and to which they were deeply attached: parrots or monkeys.

On the 8th of October Hawkins saw land. Some of the sailors preferred to land on that unknown shore and put themselves at the mercy of the Indians and the Spaniards rather than navigate the Mignon, which was taking water from all sides. They felt that those who didn't die from hunger would soon be serving as food for the fish. Consequently Hawkins gave all the men who asked him authority to land with the exception of a few he judged indispensable for manoeuvring the Mignon.

Of the 114 men who left the ship some walked north, some walked south, about 20 married Indian squaws and forgot their maternal language. Those who went south fell into the hands of belligerent Indians who attacked them and took their clothes but who consented, nevertheless, to show them the road to Tampico.

In Mexico the Englishmen had to get down on their knees before a bigger than life-size statue of the Virgin made entirely of gold and silver. Three who refused had the special honor of being sent to Spain where they were burned. The others, more docile, had the fate of being sold as slaves and they served several masters until 1574.

That year, the Inquisition was installed in the New World. After having burned a certain number of native witch doctors and medicine men, the Inquisition didn't fail to claim as victims those English *who shared the heresy of Luther*. On Maundy-Thursday, 1575, the Inquisition organized an auto-da-fé. Seventy-one English Lutherans filed through the streets Indian fashion, to the market square. Three were burned alive. Sixty-one were whipped and then sent to Spain where they rowed for ten or twelve years in the galleys of the king.

Seven others were simply condemned to serve several years in a monastery. Six got married, four with Negro women, and one with a Mestizo of Indian-Spanish extraction. The luckiest one found a widow from Biscaye who had a big dowry. The seventh insisted [come hell and high water] on remaining a bachelor and, after 15 years regained his native land.

In the meantime Drake had regained England. Months of forced idleness permitted him to fall in love, and even get married on the 4th of July, 1569. That was the only period in his life when a woman seems to have occupied his mind.

Expedition to Santo Domingo

In 1570 Drake organized his own expedition. With two ships he went as far as Santo Domingo. In 1571 with a single ship he pushed on to the continent and he seized a Spanish galleon in the harbor of Cartagena on the Isthmus of Panama.

He returned to England enriched and more ambitious. He had rid himself of the commercial conception of Hawkins. Drake's sole desire was to hi-jack Spanish gold.

At first he was content to scour the sea. Then he decided on a more audacious plan: to go and look for treasure beyond the point of arrival on the coast, to take gold, not on boats ready to do battle, but on terra firma from the treasuries poorly protected because no one had dared to attack them.

Thus on May 24, 1572, Drake left Plymouth with two vessels, the Pacha and the Swan, named pompously: the flag ship and the assistant flag ship. Pushed by a favorable wind, the ships crossed the Atlantic in record time for those days: exactly 25 days. On July 21 they anchored in a harbor on the Gulf of Darien which Drake named Port-Faisan.

The next day three ships appeared on the horizon. The flotilla was commanded by Ranse, a former lieutenant of Hawkins. Drake would certainly have preferred to undertake the expedition alone so as not to share either the profits or the glory. The two captains drew up a partnership agreement.

The flotilla composed now of eight ships took a course along the Isthmus of Panama toward a town called Nombre de Dios (In the Name of God). The English arrived thus at an island called the Isle of Pines which offered protection for two reasons: it contained a good harbor and was protected from sight by a curtain of pines. But the isle was more frequented than Drake had thought. Two little frigates were there, on board which, some Negroes were loading some planks. Drake seized the ships after a rapid and easy fight.

The Negroes Appear

There was not a white person on board the captured ships and Drake must have been astonished. He questioned his new prisoners and learned that there existed on the Isthmus a new and free race, that of the Cimarrons.*

The Spaniards had perhaps been wrong to bring to America vigorous and prolific Negroes, already acclimated to tropical regions. Some of the slaves having preferred flight to bad treatment had found anew, in Panama, the impenetrable forests of their native land.

The first Cimarrons must have been really wild, catching deer in traps and devouring them raw. When they were in

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* Cimarron: Spanish
Marron: French
Maroon: English

All three signify an escaped animal, which having once been domesticated, has escaped to his natural habitat and become wild again.

Also used to denote Negro slaves who escaped to the forests and there lived in freedom. · In some cases the Negroes set up such powerful Kingdoms that the white colonists paid annual tribute to them, in order not to be molested.

groups, they risked attacking isolated Indians and Spaniards and thus they obtained arms. Later on, women seemed to them desirable game and they attacked some Indian villages. Handsome and courageous, they quickly won the affection of the Indian women whom they had captured.

In 25 years the Cimarrons had become two powerful tribes having each its leader. The Spaniards feared them more than they feared the Indians. The Cimarrons were so dangerous that the Spaniards had sent an expedition against one of their fortresses. Far from being intimidated the Cimarrons took revenge by hurling themselves against Nombre de Dios which they very nearly captured.

Six weeks only had passed since that attack and the Spanish colonists of that city had asked the garrison at Panama City for reinforcements. The news was bad for Drake who had counted on surprising an unsuspecting garrison. In order to preserve for himself future allies. Drake gave the Cimarrons captured from the frigates their liberty, contenting himself with keeping their ships: on land, the blacks could only do harm, to the Spaniards.

Off for Treasure

Deciding to act promptly before the arrival of reinforcements, Drake commanding the flotilla of attack sailed for Nombre de Dios. Ranse remained behind to guard the rest of the ships.

Drake divided his troops into two groups. A first company under the orders of one of his brothers, John, was to enter from the East. Drake would arrive from the opposite direction.

When the Spaniards found themselves caught between two fires they fled.

Drake forced two prisoners to guide him to the governor's palace where the mules coming by way of Panama City were in the habit of unloading the treasures from Peru. Drake also sent a group to rifle the royal treasury located on the edge of the coast.

Suddenly a big tropical storm burst. A certain number of sailors were not familiar with the violence of nature in those parts. Besides, inclined to be superstitious, they saw in that torrential rain and the blinding lightning a manifestation of divine anger, bent upon stopping them, at the very moment when they were going to take another's property.

In order to pass the time, and ease their terror of the elements and of the Spaniards, they questioned a Negro named Diego. He was a slave from Nombre de Dios whose position in the city had become untenable. Employed by the Spaniards, he had on diverse occasions, spied on the Cimarrons, and he knew that if the city were taken by the Negroes, they would torture him to death.

Upon seeing those unknown Europeans, he thought he saw a chance to get out of his difficulty. Well informed by the Cimarrons, he had guessed who was the head of that expedition, and he had run toward one of the rowboats from Drakes' ships, shouting:

"Are you Captain Drake's men?"

He underwent two or three musket volleys from Drake's men but that didn't discourage him. Worn out, the English replied that the captain was, in fact, Francis Drake, and the Negro insisted on going on board. It was necessary to give in to his resigned obstinacy. Diego turned out to be very useful.

To the men who questioned him Diego said that a week ago reinforcements of 150 men had suddenly appeared. Panic spread among the English.

However the rain stopped and Drake was able to get his men back under control. Again he divided his men into two groups and while one group tried to break into the treasury, Drake prepared to lead the other group toward the main square.

All of a sudden he fell wounded in the leg. Upon seeing him down, Drake's men, already discouraged by the storm and what the Negro had told them, had only one thought in mind—to get away.

Drake left Nombre de Dios to rejoin his ships at the Isle of Pines. He had resolved to attempt again some audacious enterprise. But Ranse had had enough and preferred to return to England. Drake remained the sole in command which was all right with him.

Attack on Cartagena

Having failed at Nombre de Dios. Drake resolved to attack the most fortified city on the Caribbean Sea, Cartagena, situated east of Nombre de Dios. Just outside of Cartagena, he seized six frigates. Then he decided to try his luck farther away, on the land route between the garrison of Panama and Nombre de Dios.

The plan was audacious; never had the French or English attacked the Spaniards on land, on the new continent.

Drake had a valuable guide in the person of Diego. Because of hatred for the Spaniards, Diego deserted his masters for Drake to whom he attached himself faithfully. It is only fair to say that the English captain, always humane after the battle, treated Diego with special favor in the hope of contacting, through him, the Cimarron tribes, and allying himself with them against the Spaniards.

Drake learned from Diego that it was useless to attempt anything before five months had passed, that during the rainy season no caravan left the garrison of Panama. It was necessary to wait for the dry season.

Leaving his brother, John in charge, Drake searched for and found on the Gulf of Darien, a secret bay. In a clearing in the middle of the tropical forest, he constructed, with the guidance of Diego, some huts covered with leaves in the style of the Cimarrons. The forest abounded with game, the sea with fish. The men were happy to rest in that Eden. Thus fifteen days passed in repose.

During the two weeks they were away, John Drake had tried to get in touch with the Cimarron tribes and had finally succeeded. The Cimarrons guided him to a bay, better hidden than the first and nearer to their villages. Consequently when Drake returned his troup was transported about 10 miles away, behind a labyrinth of green-leafed islets in a bay difficult to discover and easy to defend.

A new fort was constructed where they placed cannon from the ship. Drake named it Fort Diego and gave his brother the title of governor before leaving again to pillage some nearby towns.

During his absence his brother John died. Drake, somewhat discouraged by his bad luck and his brother's death, decided to remain quiet until the Cimarrons, who were spying for him, informed him that the Spanish flotilla from Cartagena was arriving at Nombre de Dios—which was the signal for the mules at the garrison of Panama to go to Nombre de Dios also. The last month of the year 1572 was passed quietly.

With the year 1573 the black spies soon came to inform Drake that a part of the Spanish flotilla which was to carry away the precious cargo was at Nombre de Dios. It was necessary to depart at once.

On Mardi Gras, Feb. 3, Drake and 18 of his men left, accompanied by 30 Cimarrons commanded by their chief, Pedro. The Negroes were happy to find well-armed allies for attacking the Spaniards.

The men scaled the slopes of the Cordillera covered with forests. The Negroes found their way easily in that green obscurity where not the least ray of sun penetrated.

The third day they arrived at the fortress which the Cimarrons had constructed, the very one which the Spaniards had attacked.

The English admired its orderliness and cleanliness. Drake was genuinely disconsolate however that such good soldiers and also such valuable allies had been "corrupted" by the Roman Catholic religion. The Cimarrons had no priests, but they worshipped the

cross. Drake tried to convince them that they must give up their dances and their strange ceremonies. How could the pious Anglican help being convinced that the Catholics were idolatrous, faced as he was with those black people who used their scapularies for amulets, and their crosses as fetishes?

The Cimarrons listened to him with respect. When one thinks with what vigor the corsair pillaged the Spaniards, it is just toward his memory to recall that, not only for political reasons but also because of humaneness and Christian sentiment, he showed himself kind toward the Negroes whom the Spaniards used to beat as if they were wild beasts, and that for an interval of one day that pirate, who revered God, knew the fervor of an apostle.

They See Two Oceans

The Cimarrons were so impressed with the way he treated them that they begged him to remain a week with them, in order to bring him reinforcements. But Drake feared, no doubt, that he wouldn't be able to remain master of a troup too numerous, and he refused.

For four days they walked and came to the top of the Cordillera, to a place where Pedro pointed out a marvelous spectacle and one such as no Englishman had ever seen: before him the Pacific and behind him the Atlantic.

In the middle of a clearing where a Cimarron village was constructed, a giant tree stood, in the trunk of which the Negroes had contrived a staircase. Among the high branches, they had installed a leafy retreat which could hold 10 or 12 men with ease; to the north and to the south, they had cut down some trees in order not to obstruct the view.

Pedro took Drake by the hand and the ascension began. The weather was so clear that the English mariner could see the wonderful ocean which no man of his nationality had ever viewed.

The Englishmen left and at the end of two days of walking, they came out of the forest. The real expedition was beginning now. Before them in the distance spread a great plain where the heat from the sun came up in waves. Each time they found themselves on a height, they could see the city with its 300 houses of wood which sheltered 800 soldiers and 400 Negroes from Guinea.

Two more days, they marched thus, and, on the third, they perceived, in the port, ships loaded with treasures from Peru. The English were so exposed they had to leave the trail and crawl among the tall grass. Thus they reached a little isolated woods about two miles from the garrison of Panama.

The Treasure Caravans

A Cimarron who had served a Spaniard of that city was dressed up like a slave and sent to reconnoitre. He came back after a few days and stated that, as usual, the mule caravans were leaving Panama City the same evening as the arrival of the ships, which was to say, in a few hours.

The Spaniards, in fact preferred to cross the pampa during the freshness of the night. Besides one or two private caravans, 28 official caravans would follow one another; each would be protected by an advance guard and a rear guard, certainly not because the Spaniards even dreamed that whites would venture into those regions, but because they feared the Negro pirates.

The two first royal caravans were loaded in part with tropical fruits, in part with silver. A private caravan would pass: that of the treasurer of Lima, Peru. He was accompanied by his daughter, and his wealth was confided to 14 mules; 8 carried only gold, the last only precious jewels.

In order to prevent the people of Panama City from coming to the aid of the attacked caravan, Drake decided to move away from the city. The trail crossed the Chagres River at a place where the river became navigable, and where the Spaniards had built a depot named Venta de las Cruces.

Two Cimarrons were sent to reconnoitre. Crawling without noise over the big plain, they smelled the wind with their wide nostrils and they soon perceived the acrid odor of a burnt fuse from a musket. They jumped on the Spanish sentinel, and took the frightened man to the English captain.

The Spaniard, shoved around by the blacks, and terrorized by the reputation which they merited, found himself, with joy, in the presence of a gentleman of his color who treated him with kindness. He confirmed the news brought back by the spy, and the little troop advanced in the night to within five miles of de Vento de las Cruces.

The men had orders not to budge before Drake whistled. For an hour, they remained on the lookout. Finally they heard the tinkling of the little bells which the mules wore. But there suddenly resounded on the route the trot of two horses, arriving from the opposite direction of the mules. The sailors were impatient, so much so that when a rider appeared followed by his page, one of the Englishmen who was drunk stood up in order to hurl himself on the rider. A black comrade had to seize him quickly around the waist and brutally pull him back, while half strangling him in order to keep him from making any noise. The rider passed at full gallop: he had caught a glimpse of something that resembled a white phantom, and he wasn't at all reassured by it.

The Raid Fails

In the meantime the little bells coming from Panama City tinkled more and more clearly. Their hearts overflowing with joy, the Englishmen soon saw quite near them 100 well-loaded mules. Drake's whistle cut the air. In a split second the muleteers were reduced to helplessness and the avid hands of the Englishmen were ransacking the packsaddles. The English went from mule to mule without finding the much sought after treasures; nor was the treasurer from Lima nor his daughter among the prisoners.

Then Drake questioned the head muleteer. The rider coming from Venta de las Cruces had talked with the treasurer and had confided his fears to him. But an attack by whites was unheard of in those parts; and the treasurer had put little faith in the tale. However, the rider insisted so much that the treasurer ordered the royal caravans to pass first. The precaution was double: it was better to risk provisions than treasure, and his sovereign's mules rather than his own.

Not only all hope of booty was lost, but the situation was critical. That rider had perhaps pushed on to Panama City where he had given the alarm. The Spanish musketeers were perhaps already approaching.

It was necessary to regain the forest as quickly as possible where guided by the Cimarrons, the English would not have to fear any pursuit. By retracing their steps across the plain, they could have reached the forest that they had just left, that same day. But the tired men would find the twelve mile walk longer now.

If on the contrary, they followed the trail, the forest was only five miles away; but it would be necessary to pass through Venta de las Cruces and the road was guarded all night by a picket of soldiers. This was, however, the route that Drake and Pedro, the Cimarron chief, preferred. They were surer of holding their men by leading them toward the enemy than by making them march over the great plain, after their set-back.

At a mile and a half from Venta de las Cruces, Drake abandoned the muleteers and their animals while ordering them not to budge and one can imagine how happy the captured slaves were to get out of a tough spot so easily. Then some Cimarron scouts were sent to reconnoitre, and they soon came back

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Joe Charles King

By Vera L. Williams

THERE is a common belief among people who have never suffered privation, that those who have are naturally in a lower class than themselves; that they are ignorant and that there is little use in doing anything for them or about them.

Having taught in an underprivileged neighborhood of Negro families for fifteen years, I have grown to resent this feeling in white people. Still more do I resent it in my own people. We should certainly know better. Almost all Negroes of prominence who have reached the goal of successful living, have at some time in their journey along life's way, rubbed elbows with poverty. And yet, some of us are actually snobs with each other.

In this neighborhood where I have taught for fifteen years, there are bootleggers, sporting houses, dives bearing French names, and most all kinds of mentionable evils. The streets are narrow and poorly lighted. Officers of the law come through occasionally to be served at the bootleg joints and go on their way. There are some families who live here because of the cheap rent. Their children are as promising and as sweet as the children of our more fortunate people. It really seems to me that they are smarter. Certainly, Joe Charles King was the brightest youngster I have ever seen.

I became acquainted with the King family through their little son, Joe Charles. One morning the door of my room opened quite suddenly and a little round-faced boy came in. He wore blue wash shorts and a white knitted sweater. He was very clean and very cute. He looked like nothing so much as a little black pixie. His eyes had an impish slant and his engaging grin exposed a set of pearly first teeth, still intact. I smiled at him.

"Who sent you in here?" I asked.

"Nobody. I just came. This is a school, ain't it?"

"Yes, it is," I told him. "Did you see a lady with a blue dress on as you came in?"

"I saw the lady with the blue dress on," he said. "She was writing."

"Did she tell you to come in here?" I persisted.

"No, I just came myself. Ain't you the teacher?"

"Yes, I am," I said and drew out an entrance blank. "What is your name?"

"Joe Charles King," was the answer.

"How old are you, Joe Charles?"

"I am five. I will be six February 22."

"What is your father's name?"

"Charles King."

"Joe Charles, Sr.?" I asked.

"No. My name is Joe Charles. His name is just Charles. My mother's name is Lillian," he finished.

"Do you know the number of your house, Joe Charles?"

"Yes. It is 1505 Pearl street."

From the very first Joe Charles intrigued me. He had answered all my questions. He could talk quite plainly. Most of our youngsters could not answer these questions. A great many who could, used "r" for "w" and "t" for "c" and it was difficult to decipher what they were saying. One little fellow said his name was "Dunior," his baby effort at saying "Junior."

"Who came to school with you, Joe Charles?" I asked then. He came close then and said in a confidential whisper, "Nobody. I slipped off." Immune by now to surprises, I said, "Slipped off from whom?"

"My grandmother. She doesn't know where I am." We found out that he had slipped off. The floor principal sent his grandmother word that he was with us and that we would take care of him for the day. Such enthusiasm for school, we felt, should not be dampened. He was too young to come and no one had sent him. But each day he returned. He would cry silently when we prepared to send him home. So each day, Mrs. Bell relented and let him stay.

He was very much interested in learning. He wanted to learn. He also wanted to tell a lot of news. I learned from him, that his mother worked at the laundry, and that his father drove a coal truck. He knew many useful and interesting things. When we had an amateur program, he recited without error, *The Twenty-third Psalm.*

"How did you learn it?" I asked.

"My mother reads it to me every night."

Every day Joe Charles did something interesting or amusing. He learned to read readily, but found writing difficult. One day as he labored over his writing, Hawthorn, a mischevious rascal, leaned over and erased his effort. "Mrs. Winn, make Horse Corn stop erasing my writing," he said. Needless to say, that is the name Hawthorn had to wear thereafter.

One day a little sandy-haired, brown girl went on a crying jag during story hour. Knowing from experience that Delores would stop sooner if completely ignored, I went calmly on with the adventures of *The Three Bears.* Having a profound respect for tears, Joe Charles went to her, and placed his hand on her head and said coaxingly, "Little, bittie girl, won't you please stop crying, and listen to the story?" Amazingly, she did.

On February 22 he was greatly excited. His suppressed happiness made him nervous. He asked several times what time it was. Finally, I asked him why he wanted to know. He said,

"When I get home today, my mother will be there already. It's my birthday."

"Then I shall have to give you six spanks," I told him.

"But I won't be six until seven o'clock tonight," he said.

One day in spring he came to school dressed up. He was dressed in a blue wool suit. His shirt was white as could be and his oxfords shined with greatest care. He was always clean, but today he was resplendent. But his little pixie eyes slanted dolorously, and he was very quiet.

"Joe Charles, you look so nice," I told him.

"Yes'm. I am going to a funeral," he said.

"Whose funeral?" I wanted to know.

"My grandmother's. She is dead. They are going to have her funeral today." He came up close to my chair and laid his head on my shoulder. I saw that he was crying. I put my arm comfortingly around him.

AFTER that I wondered who took care of him while his mother worked. He came to school as usual, never missing a day. I had been to his home only one time. I had not met either of his parents, however. I sent them a note asking them to come to the school. But his mother replied by note that both she and her husband worked and could not come. I asked Joe Charles who sent him to school on time each day and who cooked his breakfast.

"I do," he said.

"What do you cook?" I asked him.

"An egg apiece," he said. He had long ago told me about "Lillian," the baby sister who was four years old by this time.

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The Missouri Boot-Heel

By Constance E. H. Daniel

The cotton counties of Southeast Missouri may be the proving ground of democracy, asserts this writer, citing the experiments under way there

"THE last agricultural frontier in America," "a racial borderline," "a tension point where the thought life of North and South clash" —so does the Missouri "boot-heel" appear to those who labor with its problems.

Negro farming in Missouri is concentrated in this area, but that concentration, as figures go, is of little significance —less than four thousand Negro farmers for all seven counties. Nor is the figure for white farmers in these counties —slightly over 20,000—particularly impressive. More spectacular figures could be assembled for hundreds of counties south of "the line." The importance of the area lies in other directions.

Agriculturally, the "boot-heel" belongs with the Delta counties of Arkansas and Mississippi, with cotton the principal crop, controlling both social and economic patterns.

But Southeast Missouri, following the crop patterns of the Deep South and the outward form, at least, of its social patterns, has never wholly accepted its thinking. Since the days of the Missouri Compromise, many of those, white and Negro, who make up its population, have been foreign to the land and have carried to it the conflicting philosophies of other regions.

This non-conformity of thought in the "boot-heel" counties has swept to the surface problems that give the area significance as a reflector of socio-economic disorders affecting all Southern agriculture, and as a proving ground for possible remedies for these disorders.

One of the prevailing theories on the racial aspects of Southeast Missouri's troubles is that Negroes from further South, anxious to realize freedom from habitual restraint, drift easily into laxities that invite economic disaster.

Without doubt there are drifters and ne'er-do-wells in this as in all other groups of the venturesome—or persevering—seeking promised lands. But the presence of large numbers of white agricultural workers, living as poorly and as precariously, would seem to discount the theory that lowered efficiency has resulted from relatively rapid lightening of purely racial pressures.

Before and since the now famous sharecropper walkout of 1939, when two thousand croppers and their families fled to the Missouri highways in protest against evictions, big operators have been accused of fostering a "divided you fall" policy among white and black tenant farmers, with all its corollaries of inflammatory racial emphasis, and threats of still less land for the needy.

"Boot-Heel" Counties

On the other hand, croppers working under relatively good conditions have been accused of agitating in the hope of obtaining Government aid.

Few are in a position to know the merits of either charge. That there was a dramatic exodus to the roads is now Missouri history.

Perhaps only in Missouri could such a demonstration as that which filled her snow-covered highways with tattered, shivering farmers, white and black, have been led by a Negro.

Perhaps only in Missouri could the cause of such a group have found open support from members of the planter class itself.

Both phenomena occurred. Race lines were crossed; class lines were crossed; and the drama of Southeast Missouri's croppers ended around the council table, with all groups represented.

The problems discussed around that table by Owen Whitfield, the Negro cropper, Thad Snow, the planter, Governor Stark, and others, still exist. No spot-cures have been found for any of agriculture's ills. Long before the demonstration, some forward-looking steps had been taken in the "boot-heel." Since the demonstration, more have been developed. Whether these constitute temporary relief or are part of a definite answer to the problem of population pressure on the land, remains to be seen.

Problem of Pressure

Whatever the answer, however, in the last analysis, the problem in Southeast Missouri, as in the Deep South, is one of population pressure. Evictions may or may not have been due, as charged, to the unwillingness of landowners to share crop reduction "benefit checks"

A white cropper's home in the Boot Heel. Wretched housing is common among croppers of both races

with tenants whose acreage was affected, as is required by law.

There may or may not be truth in assertions that control of the tenant's vote was in many instances the owner's price for a place on his land.

If neither was true the problem would still exist. If there was truth in either charge, the abuse was made possible by the pressure.

One step, taken before the demonstration, was the establishment near Sikeston, Missouri, of the La Forge Project. There, one hundred families of destitute sharecroppers and day laborers, about equally divided between the two races, were located on 6,700 acres of land in Scott and New Madrid counties.

The families accepted for residence at La Forge, in 1937, were those already existing on the land, living in typical croppers' shacks, little better than sheds, eating whatever they could when there was anything to eat. Farm Security workers reported many who were seriously underweight from lack of food.

There was none of the usual selection of families here. At this place, Farm Security took what it found—superior families whose morale and resources had been sapped by constant moving; stranded day laborers; croppers without land to crop, and for whom there was no choice but to join the swelling ranks of migrants on the highways leading west.

A non-selective group of down-and-out farm folk was being given a chance to make good—just provided with decent, inexpensive housing, and tools and mules to work the land. Could such families succeed?

Of significance in the new F.S.A. programs is the chance for self-direction. Above: a committee meeting at the LaForge Project

La Forge Succeeding

They are succeeding. Living in durable four and five-room farm cottages, with good barns, wells, sanitary privies and simple food storage vaults, La Forge farmers, their first year, paid a cash rent of $50 per unit plus one-fourth of their cotton crop. Since then, rents have been paid entirely in cash from crop income, at an average rent of $220 per unit.

Costs, including land and all construction, ranged from $5,330 for units with two-bedroom houses, to $5,912 for three-bedroom units. The houses alone cost $1,028 and $1,217 respectively, according to size. Houses built by Farm Security here, as elsewhere, have a life-expectancy of forty years—an important consideration to both the government and the family involved in planning for permanency of housing.

Ordinarily, croppers don't have gardens because they are not permitted to have them. Given the chance, La Forge families began making theirs before their houses were complete. The garden acreage for the hundred families rose from six acres in 1937, to sixty acres in 1939-40.

There was a corresponding change in crops and livestock. Acreage in hay and legumes for the hundred farmsteads increased from 200 to 2,000 acres. Cotton acreage dropped from 3,500 to 1,725; wheat from 475 to 90 acres. Milk cows increased from 25 to 115; hogs from 60 to 1,000; chickens from 600 to 5,000; and mules from 80 to 200.

At the end of La Forge's second year, the 100 farm wives had canned more than 50,000 quarts of produce from their gardens. The cooperative use of farm machinery provided each family with necessary equipment at a cost to each of $220. The same equipment, purchased individually, would have cost $900 per family. Without the equipment, successful competition with the area's large commercial units would have been impossible.

The La Forge cooperative runs a cotton gin, a store, sire service and a blacksmith shop. This cooperative has paid an annual rent of $7,500 to the Government and is now a year ahead with payments on its operating loan. The 100 families will receive some $3,500 in profits after the extra year's payment is made. With two or three exceptions, the families at La Forge have met all their obligations to the Government, including rent and payment on equipment and livestock loans.

Of most significance to these hundred former croppers, black and white, has been the chance to direct their own affairs—to make their own decisions, and to plan together toward the day when all assistance from the Government, technical or financial, will have ceased, and the La Forge community will be entirely "on its own."

But La Forge, realistic and fundamental as it is, is yet a pattern. The hundred homesteaders there are a concrete statement of sharecropper possibilities, not an indication of the way toward a large-scale solution of the small farmer's problems.

(*Continued on page 366*)

White House Blesses Jim Crow

A STATEMENT from the White House, October 9, implying that a committee of three persons, including Walter White, secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., had approved a policy of segregation for Negro units in the Army, was repudiated and denounced October 10 in a prompt telegram of protest to President Roosevelt.

The United Press account of the White House statement declared:

"White House Secretary Early said the segregation policy was approved after Mr. Roosevelt had conferred with Walter White, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and two other Negro leaders, etc."

This phraseology in the press was characterized by the N.A.A.C.P. as a "trick" to give the impression that Negroes had approved of the Army jim crow, and to remove the pressure from President Roosevelt as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy.

The telegram, signed by Mr. White, A. Phillip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and T. Arnold Hill, formerly industrial secretary of the National Urban League and at present an assistant in the National Youth Administration, declared "in a written memorandum we submitted we specifically repudiated segregation."

On other points of policy enunciated by the White House statement, the telegram declared:

"We most vigorously protest your approval of War Department policy regarding Negroes in armed forces which precludes Negro officers except chaplains and doctors in regular army units other than two national guard regiments staffed by Negro officers. We deny statement that 'at arsenals and army posts Negro civilians are accorded equal opportunity for employment.'

"We ask proof that even one Negro is now being given aviation training as pilot in army air corps. As recently as October 1, 1940 the Adjutant General of the War Department wrote 'applications from colored persons for flying cadet appointment or for enlistment in the Air Corps are not being accepted.'

"We further vigorously question your statement that morale is splendid in existing Negro units of the regular army. Many enlisted men in these segregated units have made repeated protests at being forced to serve as hostlers and servants to white army officers. We further question that jim crow policy of army 'has been proven satisfactory.'

Not satisfied with announcing on October 9 a policy of segregation for Negro Americans in the Army, the White House press release was so worded as to imply clearly that Negroes themselves had asked for Jim Crow. The NAACP sets down here its statements on the issue

It has never been satisfactory nor is it now to Negro Americans. Such segregation has been destructive of morale and has permitted prejudiced superiors to exercise their bigotry on defenseless Negro regiments.

"We are inexpressibly shocked that a President of the United States at a time of national peril should surrender so completely to enemies of Democracy who would destroy national unity by advocating segregation. Official approval by the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of such discrimination and segregation is a stab in the back of Democracy. It is a tragic coincidence that you issued your statement on the same day the coup de grace was given by Senate Majority Leader Alben Barkley to the Anti-Lynching bill. The two acts are a double blow at the patriotism of twelve million Negro citizens."

The N.A.A.C.P. has sent a letter to its 600 branches, youth councils and college chapters urging active and continued protest against President Roosevelt's jim crow national defense policy. The letter asks action before election day to make the protests of Negro Americans most effective.

The N.A.A.C.P. announced that the whole section of policy dealing with Negro army officers was a plan to put Negro officers "on the skids" and eventually eliminate them altogether.

An important part of the N.A.A.C.P. protest and activity will be upon the employment of Negroes in arsenals, navy yards, and industrial plants which have been awarded contracts under the national defense program.

The White House Jim Crow Plan

The statement as given out at the White House follows:

"It is the policy of the War Department that the services of Negroes will be utilized on a fair and equitable basis. In line with this policy provision will be made as follows:

"1. The strength of the Negro personnel of the Army of the United States will be maintained on the general basis of proportion of the Negro population of the country.

"2. Negro organizations will be established in each major branch of the service, combatant as well as non-combatant.

"3. Negro reserve officers eligible for active duty will be assigned to Negro units officered by colored personnel.

"4. When officer candidate schools are established, opportunity will be given to Negroes to qualify for reserve commissions.

"5. Negroes are being given aviation training as pilots, mechanics and technical specialists. This training will be accelerated. Negro aviation units will be formed as soon as the necessary personnel has been trained.

"6. At arsenals and army posts Negro civilians are accorded equal opportunity for employment at work for which they are qualified by ability, education and experience.

"7. The policy of the War Department is not to intermingle colored and white enlisted personnel in the same regimental organizations. This policy has been proven satisfactory over a long period of years, and to make changes would produce situations destructive to morale and detrimental to the preparation for national defense. For similar reasons the department does not contemplate assigning colored reserve officers other than those of the Medical Corps and chaplains to existing Negro combat units of the Regular Army. These regular units are going concerns, accustomed through many years to the present system. Their morale is splendid, their rate of reenlistment is exceptionally high, and their field training is well advanced. It is the opinion of the War Department that no experiments should be tried with the organizational set-up of these units at this critical time."

The text of the letter sent to N.A.A.C.P. branches:

The daily newspapers of October 9 and 10 carried a statement from the White House saying that President Roosevelt had approved the policy of complete segregation of Negroes in the army.

The story sent out by the United Press said:

> "White House Secretary Early said the segregation policy was approved after Mr. Roosevelt had conferred with Walter White, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; two other Negroes and Secretary of the Navy Knox, and Assistant Secretary of War Patterson."

The Associated Press story said:

> "Announcing the President's action, Stephen Early, press secretary, said that it followed a conference Mr. Roosevelt had on September 27 with Negro leaders and Frank Knox, etc."

These news stories give the clear implication that Mr. White and T. Arnold Hill and A. Philip Randolph, the other two conferees, approved a policy of segregating Negroes in the army. This is not true. On the contrary, the three men submitted a written memorandum to Mr. Roosevelt in which they specifically opposed segregation and requested that the armed services be opened up without regard to race, creed, or color.

Furthermore, as far as Mr. White is concerned, the board of directors of the N.A.A.C.P. had voted on September 9, 1940, to contend for no segregation in the army and for the establishment of mixed units. In the face of this specific vote of his own board of directors, it was obviously impossible for Mr. White to have approved segregated units in the army.

We believe that Walter White and the N.A.A.C.P., together with Mr. Hill and Mr. Randolph, were used as a screen by The White House advisors behind which the President could hide in going forward with a program of segregation in the national defense. The protest of Negro citizens has been in such volume and the concentration on the President, as Commander-in-Chief, has been so great, that The White House by this publicity sought to excuse its failures to act by using Negro organizations as a cover.

As soon as the story appeared, Mr. White, Mr. Hill and Mr. Randolph sent a joint telegram of protest and repudiation to President Roosevelt. The telegram expressed shock "that a President of the United States at a time of national peril should surrender so completely to enemies of democracy who would destroy national unity by advocating segregation."

Want No Negro Officers

One of the points in the statement deals with Negro officers in the army, but when its language is studied carefully, Negroes will realize that the President and the War Department intend to have as few Negro officers as possible —the fewer the better. The statement says that Negro reserve officers eligible for action "will be assigned to Negro units *officered by colored personnel.*"

There are only two Negro units completely officered by colored personnel: The old Eighth Illinois infantry, now the 184th Field artillery, and the 369th New York infantry, now the 369th coast artillery anti-aircraft.

Therefore, this White House statement means that the four regular Negro regiments in the army—the 9th and 10th cavalry, and the 24th and 25th infantry, will continue to have white officers; that the thousands of Negroes who will be drafted will have white officers; that the new Negro regiments now being formed, among which are the 76th and 77th coast artillery at Fort Bragg, N. C., will also have white officers; that the few Negro national guard regiments which now have mixed officers will in all probability have white officers.

As a matter of fact, there is some evidence that the War Department is attempting to eliminate even the few Negro officers who are now functioning. Eight of the fourteen Negro officers in the New Jersey regiment have been put on the unassigned list. The remaining six officers are being given "educational tests" lasting three hours. One of these officers received telegraphic notice that his education test would be given twenty-four hours later.

There is also a suspicion that the Negro officers of the old Eighth and the 369th, having been shifted overnight

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The Non-Jim Crow Program Presented To the White House September 27

The complete text of the memorandum given to President Roosevelt, Col. Knox of the Navy, and Assistant Secretary of War Patterson, by Messrs. Hill, Randolph and White:

"The following are important phases of the integration of the Negro into military aspects of the national defense program:

"1. The use of presently available Negro reserve officers in training recruits and other forms of active service. At the same time, a policy of training additional Negro officers in all branches of the services should be announced. Present facilities and those to be provided in the future should be made available for such training.

"2. Immediate designation of centers where Negroes may be trained for work in all branches of the aviation corps. It is not enough to train pilots alone, but in addition navigators, bombers, gunners, radio-men, and mechanics must be trained in order to facilitate full Negro participation in the air service.

"3. Existing units of the army and units to be established should be required to accept and select officers and enlisted personnel without regard to race.

"4. Specialized personnel such as Negro physicians, dentists, pharmacists and officers of chemical warfare, camouflage service and the like should be integrated into the services.

"5. The appointment of Negroes as responsible members in the various national and local agencies engaged in the administration of the Selective Service and Training Act of 1940.

"6. The development of effective techniques for assuring the extension of the policy of integration to positions in the Navy other than the menial services to which Negroes are now restricted.

"7. The adoption of policies and the development of techniques to assure the participation of trained Negro women as Army and Navy nurses as well as in the Red Cross.

"One of the procedures which will facilitate the achievement of these objectives is the appointment of competent Negro civilians as assistants to the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy. To be effective, such assistants should be responsible directly to those Cabinet members and should be vested with authority to require the cooperation and assistance of technical and administrative personnel of those Departments in the devising of effective and orderly procedures.

"In addition, there is the equally important problem of equitable participation of Negroes in employment incident to national defense, with particular reference to army arsenals, navy yards and industries having national defense contracts."

Federation of School Teachers

By Layle Lane

APART from Vieux Carré in New Orleans, every Negro will want to see the site of what used to be Straight university. On a spacious plot of the famous palm-lined Canal street is a group of old buildings—the same now as in Reconstruction days—plain, substantial, enduring; a monument both to the pioneer zeal of the American Missionary Association and to its high purpose of giving aid in every way it could to the educational advance of the Negro, despite tremendous opposition.

These buildings convey the cost as well as the preciousness of every gain we've made in education.

Tremendous advances have been made but there is still much to do. The illiteracy rate for Negroes is 16.3 in comparison with 4.3 for whites. Negro teachers, in 15 southern states, have an average annual wage of $462, while their white colleagues in the same area area receive $937. In only a few of the southern states is there adequate tenure, a pension system or any security for the teacher even after long years of service. The Negro child suffers humiliating inequalities in inferior buildings, inadequate equipment and greatly limited curricula. The Negro Year Book, the bulletins of the Office of Education, especially "Statistics of the Education of Negroes" and "Vocational Education of Negroes," and the N.A.A.C.P. booklet, give a very complete picture of the disabilities in the field of Negro education.

Where can the Negro turn for help and leadership now that the pioneers of the past have gone?

To his own organized strength together with that of organized white labor! In the American Federation of Teachers affiliated with the American Federation of Labor will be found a source of strength and leadership which will enable us eventually to break down existing discriminations.

Nearly 25 years ago the American Federation of Teachers was created by a few educators who knew that teachers were workers and that, with cooperative action with other workers, education could be greatly improved. They wrote a preamble which reads:

"We believe in democracy, and in the schools as the chief agency of democracy.

"We believe that the schools have failed of their fullest attainment because

Union organization is urged as one way to improve both the lot of the teachers and the brand of democracy in America

of undemocratic administration, adherence to tradition, and lack of responsiveness to the needs of the community; and that the teachers must find the remedy.

"We believe that the teacher is one of the most highly productive of workers, and that the best interests of the schools and of the people demand an intimate contact and an effective cooperation between the teachers and the other workers of the community—upon whom the future of democracy must depend."

Among the most important of the aims of the organization are these: "(3) to raise the standard of the teaching profession by securing the conditions essential to the best professional service. (5) to promote the welfare of the childhood of the nation by providing progressively better educational opportunity for all."

Labor for Free Education

The founders of the Federation knew that alone they would not be able to attain their ends, but with organized labor, a staunch supporter of education, they could achieve much. Labor as early as 1828 adopted free public education as its goal. In 1834 at a convention of labor unions in New York City, the delegates urged "the necessity of an equal, universal, republican system of education." Among our own people, the Colored National Labor Union in 1869 stated: "It is essentially necessary to the rapid and permanent development of the agricultural, manufacturing and mechanical growth and interests of the nation that there shall be a liberal school system enacted by the legislatures of the several states for the benefit of all the inhabitants thereof . . . recognizing no distinction on account of race, color, creed, or previous condition."

After the formation of the American Federation of Labor in 1881, more systematic efforts to extend educational facilities were made and such gains resulted as free text books, compulsory school laws, the Smith-Hughes Federal Aid Bill and the more recent survey of the whole question of federal aid by the President's Advisory Committee on Education.

The American Federation of Teachers, then, by joining itself with labor has secured effective support in obtaining better salaries, a measure of academic freedom, use of school buildings for community purposes, better working conditions, and more educational opportunities for children.

If the Federation with the aid of union labor is able to do so much, it is reasonable to ask why its numbers are not larger—35,000 members in a nationwide organization. A number of factors account for this. Perhaps the most important is the fear of teachers that their joining will displease school officials. School boards, like every other employer, don't want teachers who seek too zealously to improve the conditions under which they work; consequently teachers have been penalized in some places for their union activity.

The union, however, is the greatest safeguard that the teacher has and the stronger the union, the more protection. When forty teachers in Jacksonville, Fla., were dismissed last spring for organizing, they promptly secured the help of organized labor in the election of school officials; replaced the board with one that was friendly to labor and secured their reinstatement. Union activity puts backbone, then, in a group sorely needing it.

The Professional Attitude

Another reason for a small membership is that most teachers like to think of themselves as a professional group whose work in the intellectual field removes them from such material consideration as adequate salaries, decent working conditions or concern as to whether their students have enough to eat. They forget that teachers are treated just as any other wage earner and, in an economic crisis, are just as likely to have their salaries slashed as any other worker. In fact, they are far more likely to suffer wage cuts than union labor.

Especially among Negro teachers is this so-called professional attitude maintained—with far less reason—for the majority of us are paid less than factory workers. One can't be very professional on $462 a year.

George Googe, field representative

of the AFL in the Southern area, tells this story: "I went into Charlotte, N. C., a few years ago to organize the school teachers. I was told that they were a professional group, that they were not laborers. 'What is the advantage?' I was asked.

"Well," I said, "I don't know what the advantages would be to school teachers in Charlotte, but I do know that some 150 miles from here at Newport News, Norfolk, and Wilmington, there are some 40,000 colored longshoremen who benefited. . . .

"I explained to them that these longshoremen, being without educational opportunities, didn't have any more intelligence than to organize and that after organizing, they succeeded in establishing an 8-hour day, a wage scale of $1.05 an hour and time and a half for overtime."

What is good for longshoremen is equally good for teachers.

Question of Communism

Another factor which makes many teachers hesitant is the fear of joining a "Communist" organization. The name "Communist" has been applied to the Federation within recent years and most people have not taken time to find out the facts. Much of the name-calling has been the usual method applied to anybody or any organization that is vocal and active in its efforts to abolish undesirable conditions.

The vast majority of the 35,000 members of the Federation are not Communists nor are they sympathetic to Communist policies. However, it would be dishonest to deny that a few of the locals are controlled by Communists who in turn are working to control the national association. For a long time members hesitated to apply the word Communist to any group both for the protection of the group and also for the protection of the organization. This year at its annual convention in Buffalo, the majority of the delegates decided that the best defense of any group or organization is the honest facing of issues without equivocation or evasion. They used the word Communist—not to indulge in Red-baiting, as charged, but to make clear the policies and practices of their opponents. An organization working for "democracy in education" has an obligation to be honest with both teachers and the public if its professions of democracy are sincere and not merely a cloak to advance a totalitarian party.

The convention made clear both in its election of officers and in its principles that it stood "unequivocally for the right of any citizen, including members of the American Federation of Teachers to hold any view on political and social questions and to membership in any legal political party, but we strongly condemn and oppose any attempt at manipulation of the American Federation of Teachers, or its program and policies, by a Communist group or any other group whose activities in the union are directed primarily toward furthering the ends of agencies, foreign or domestic, external to the Union and its policies."

In addition to its stand opposing political domination, the Federation adopted a strong resolution on defense of education advocating:

"That immediate and vigorous action be taken to expand the facilities of public education and to protect it against any and all forces destructive to its welfare so that (a) American youth may be guaranteed increasing educational opportunities for training in citizenship, skills, and culture; (b) American teachers may continue their fundamental work of training citizens for democracy through an expanded program and that American teachers may play a constructive role during this period by building sound judgment, intelligent loyalties and devotion to the principles and practices of an expanding democracy and thereby promote the democratic morale of the American people in this time of national crisis; (c) American democracy may persist and thrive in providing for a truly free people those traditional human rights and liberties of which we are so justly proud; (d) American national defense may relate itself appropriately to the survival of a free society whatever the exigencies of the present situation may require and that it may not be used against the welfare of public education; (e) American labor, including the American Federation of Teachers, may continue to prosper as a constructive and integral part of our social structure."

A Dark Man Speaks

They say that I should sympathize
And try with all my might,
To help the people over there
To end this brutal fight.

They say that I should serve,
And give my earnings too;
I'm barred from the air corps—
Now tell me what to do!

I've walked the streets for months,
I cannot get a job;
The social worker cut me off—
Shall I go out and rob?

They say that I should open my doors
To those who have to roam;
I'll gladly share my park bench—
"Come, make yourself at home."

I think that I shall go to France
And become a refugee;
For no one in this country
Gives a damn for men like me.

—E. Olivia Nanton

See Poetry Contest announcement on page 342.

Equality for Negroes

The Negro teacher who is so accustomed to being on the outside quite rightfully asks—what place is there for me?

Apropos of the AFT, its policy toward Negroes is one which urges them to join its ranks as fellow workers entitled to the same rights and privileges as every other member. Its resolutions and its literature contain its opposition to all discrimination in education based on race, color, or creed. It has repeatedly refused to hold its annual convention in any hotel where its Negro delegates will not be accorded the same privileges and conveniences as any other patron. Negro delegates work diligently on the various committees and participate freely in all convention activities. As one delegate from Cincinnati said to me—"When it comes to the Negro question, this is the most decent organization I've ever been in."

There are, unfortunately, separate Negro locals—some in Negro institutions and in some of the southern public school systems—an evidence that southern public opinion is not yet ready to accept mixed locals. Will our remaining out because of this improve race relations? Decidedly not. It is only by joining unions and showing our white brothers that we can do as good a job, if not a better one than they, that we can hope to abolish the barriers between white and Negro labor. It is easier to do this within the ranks of labor than outside of it. Cayton and Mitchell in their book "Black Workers and New Unions" discuss at some length the question of unions and race relations. They used Birmingham, Ala., as their testing ground, asking this question: "Does this business of Negroes and whites going into trade unions make for better or for worse feeling between races?" They found, "nearly all trade unionists thought organization of Negroes is a desirable step. Most of the non-union and company union people interviewed were against it on grounds of race relations."

Large numbers of Negro teachers within the union of their profession cannot only improve immeasurably the quality of education, but they can help to make true Lincoln's words: "The strongest bond of human sympathy, outside of the family relation should be one uniting all working people, or all nations and tongues and kindreds."

Black Pirates

(*Continued from page* 346)

to say they had smelled the burnt fuse from muskets.

In fact an officer appeared soon afterwards, and shouted:

—"Who goes there?"

The reply was:

"Englishmen."

The hidalgo didn't lose his eloquence:

"In the name of the King of Spain, my master, I command you to surrender; I give you my word as a gentleman and as a soldier that you will be treated with all courtesy."

Drake approached and replied, "For the honor of the Queen of England, my mistress, make way for me."

And he discharged his pistol in the face of the Spanish captain. The Spaniards replied with a volley which killed one man and wounded several, including Drake. Drake rallied his men who advanced in good order.

Negroes to the Rescue

It is then that the Cimarrons intervened. In Indian file, with their arrows ready in taut bows, they came out of the forest, bounding in rhythm and yelling their sacred chant:

"Yo peho, yo peho."

Before that dance of war that the Spaniards feared more than musket fire, the Spaniards fled in retreat, with the English right on their heels. They didn't even take time to give the alarm in the town, which Drake occupied without striking a blow.

The pillage of the village gave no satisfaction to the English, to whom it brought none of the precious metal.

The depressed men were ready to mutiny. Although no pursuit by the Spaniards was to be feared, in the woods, Drake forced his men to pass through them to the other side as much to preserve his authority over his men as to rejoin those whom he had left on the other side. The Cimarrons insisted that the English go to one of their nearby villages and rest, or at least stop a few hours with them, in order to kill and eat some game. But Drake always refused. However, at seven and one-half miles from the port, as the Cimarrons had built for him a veritable little village, he couldn't refuse spending a night there. He sent a Cimarron to notify the crew and gave him, as a sort of letter of introduction, his gold toothpick on which he had rapidly engraved: "With my compliments, Frances Drake." Consequently, the next day the English captain and his companions found at the mouth of the River Chagres, one of their rowboats waiting for them.

Finally the little troup returned to the port. But Drake swore that he would not leave the country before having carried off the treasures of a caravan. He had the two necessary qualities of a leader of irregular troops such as his: audacity in attack and perseverance in spite of defeat.

It was necessary to await the departure of another caravan from Panama City. The Cimarrons proposed going to pillage the hacienda of a rich proprietor of mines. Some of the more prudent English wanted to seize some Spanish vessel loaded with provisions; others more audacious suggested taking one of the frigates which were bringing treasures into the bay of Nombre de Dios.

French Allies

That was what Drake decided to do. He took possession of a ship, and while on the sea he came across a Huguenot Corsair, Guillaume Le Testu, one of the best hydrographers in the world. This man, whom the sailors called Captain Têtu (Hard-head), was a protégé of Coligny, to whom he had dedicated an atlas. Coligny had given him, in acknowledgment, a costly scimitar.

Têtu commanded 70 men while Drake had only 31. The Englishmen didn't bother therefore about entering into conflict with the Frenchman; it was better to join forces. As Drake possessed business acumen, it was understood that the profits would be divided equally.

For five days Têtu fed his men well, thanks to the provisions which the English had. Then the Cimarrons informed the two white captains that the caravans were soon going to leave Panama City and that it was time to start.

Drake did not wish to repeat his coup at the spot. Panama City possessed a rather strong garrison. On the other hand Nombre de Dios, though prepared for an attack on the port side, was practically undefended from the interior side.

The English and the French crossed the forest, guided by the Cimarrons, and hid in ambush on both sides of the highway on a hill. Below them lay the city.

Toward morning the Cimarron scouts announced the caravans. Soon the little bells resounded joyously in the avid ears of the Englishmen.

At the top of the hill the chief of the muleteers stopped in order to rest the caravan. But hardly had the last mule lain down when a discharge from muskets and a volley of arrows assailed the Spaniards. They defended themselves with courage. One Cimarron was killed and Captain Hard-head gravely wounded. However, the Spaniards had to give up. They fled towards the city to get reinforcements. When they returned their assailants had disappeared.

Fifteen Tons of Booty

The English had carried off some 15 tons of silver and gold. Drake and his men were rich beyond their dreams. Even before this last expedition they had captured numerous ships and on each one had found some booty.

One day before his departure, Drake invited Pedro and three Cimarron chiefs to come on board. He begged them to choose whatever they wished. Drake himself searched, in the coffers, for some linen and silk cloth for the wives of the four chiefs. Thus he happened to displace the scimitar which had been given to him by Captain Têtu. Pedro was fascinated by that magnificent weapon, but through courtesy or timidity, realizing that the sabre was an object of great value, he didn't dare ask for it himself but he confided his desire to one of the English lieutenants. Drake, glad to reward such a staunch ally, offered to Pedro the scimitar which had thus in passing through so many hands of different color, travelled half way around the world.

The truth is, the Negro wanted to give the scimitar to the King of the Cimarrons, who lived in a city a few miles from Panama City. And the King would be so pleased that he would make Pedro one of the biggest men in his kingdom.

The English afterwards said farewell to the Cimarrons. Drake arrived at Plymouth on Sunday, August 9, 1573. In the churches, it was the hour of the sermon, but the news spread so quickly that the faithful left the church at once. Doubtless the exordium of the sermon seemed less interesting to them, than the booty brought back by the pious navigator who according to his own beliefs had been serving God, too.

Next Month

William Harrison of Boston has written for the December issue a special article on Crispus Attucks, the first American to die in the Revolutionary war.

From the Press of the Nation

Editorial of the Month

Nazis, Negroes and Jobs

***Courier*, Pittsburgh, Pa.**

Last week, Dies Committeeman, Representative Joseph Starnes of the Alabama Democracy, who is busily helping investigate all un-American activities except lynching and color discrimination, made startling disclosures at Newark, N. J.

He charged that 600 members or sympathizers of the German-American Bund, an American Nazi outfit taking orders from Hitler, Goebbels & Co., were employed in Eastern industrial plants working on national defense contracts.

Preliminary investigations of Negro employment in defense industry by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reveal that virtually no Negroes are employed in industrial plants working on national defense contracts, except in some steel mills and at a few isolated shipyards in the South.

In reply to queries, some firms frankly stated that Negroes were taboo.

There is a sickening hypocrisy about these firms getting the tax money of American citizens, employing Hitler agents and stooges, denying work to Negroes whose only allegiance is to the Stars and Stripes, and moaning about preserving democracy.

President Roosevelt made brigadier-generals of 84 colonels several days ago. In so doing, he passed over the only Negro colonel in the United States Army—Colonel Benjamin O. Davis.

He thus follows in the footsteps of his Democratic predecessor, President Woodrow Wilson, who refused to promote the late Colonel Charles Young, a West Point graduate, to the rank of brigadier-general, while promoting many who were Col. Young's juniors.

Once more the ugly head of prejudice rears itself in the United States Army and denies well merited promotion for no other reason than that of color.

Perhaps the next step, if any pressure is brought to bear upon the War Department for Col. Davis' promotion, will be a physical examination of the colonel, with the foregone conclusion that the examiners will find some flaw, even if it is no more than flat feet, to justify his retirement.

That was the procedure in Col. Young's case, even though he rode on horseback from Ohio to Washington to demonstrate his physical fitness.

DEMOCRACY BREAKS DOWN AGAIN AT THE COLOR LINE! . . . Philadelphia Pa., *Tribune*.

Some folks are still fighting for Farley. They figure that Roosevelt in not having him nominated for the Presidency, "done him wrong." Those same folk, had Farley received that signal honor, would now be fighting to the death against his election, because he happens to be a Catholic. . . . Cincinnati, Ohio, *Union*.

When Negro citizens of Atlanta, Ga., combined to defeat a $6,000,000 bond issue, September 4, 1940, because those in authority refused to give colored citizens sufficient consideration in allocating the funds, the "power of the ballot" was quite clearly demonstrated.

The Atlanta branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, through its officers, presented to the city authorities several of the urgent needs of the colored citizenry, but they were not given proper consideration, only $100,000 being allocated to be spent for the needs of colored citizens. Resenting this injustice, the 2,000 registered Negro voters defeated the bond issue, each phase of the issue being defeated by much less than a majority of 500 votes.

Very likely, when a bond issue is to be voted on in Atlanta again, outstanding Negro organizations will be given more respectful consideration, when it comes to allocating funds to be secured by its passage. This should serve as a lesson to colored citizens in other cities and states in the South, especially in those where Negroes attempt to do nothing for themselves, but expect their rights to be delivered to them on a silver platter. . . . New Orleans, La., *Louisiana Weekly*.

On the front page of last week's issue was a true story, captioned "The Captain Just Shrugged," in which Lou Layne, a capable writer, revealed his experience when he went down to the United States Army recruiting service at 39 Whitehall street to enlist in the armed forces of the nation.

The story is really a revelation of what one Negro thinks when he is refused the opportunity to enlist in the army along with all other citizens of the United States.

This may be a family newspaper but sometimes it is necessary to use strong language. If a Negro is not good enough to enlist in the army, why in hell should he be conscripted? . . . New York, N. Y. *Age*.

American Negroes have to fight to obtain an opportunity to shed blood for the U. S., THEIR COUNTRY. That sounds ridiculous, but it's true. If you don't believe it and if you are a male try to join up with any branch of the United States military service . . . Minneapolis, Minn., *Spokesman*.

While the United States Senate is still dilly dallying and quibbling over the anti-lynching bill, lynching goes merrily on down in Georgia.

Just this week down in LaGrange, Georgia, Austin Callaway, an 18-year-old Negro youth was lynched after being taken from the county jailer who did not raise one finger to protect his prisoner. . . .

What will the Senate do about this matter? Isn't this a good time for some of those so-called Christian gentlemen in the Senate to stand up for the protection of the lives of American citizens from the mobs of our own making? Why pray we to our heavenly Father to protect those who are being ruthlessly murdered in Europe while the American mob is slaying the innocent and nothing is being done about it? Surely the long prayers for the protection of life and the restoration of peace in foreign fields by this, a Christian nation, falls far short when such brutal murder is allowed in our gates, as was perpetrated upon young Callaway, and nothing is done about it. . . . St. Louis, Mo., *Argus*.

Forums in Georgia

By Moss Hyles Kendrix

The Story of the National Youth Administration Sponsored Forums for Negroes in Georgia

IN November, the National Youth Administration sponsored Statewide Public Forum Project for Negroes in Georgia will enter its third annual season. Each year since 1938 for a four-month period, November through February, Negroes in Georgia have been encouraged to gather in their school houses, churches and community centers for the purpose of discussing subjects of civic, economic, political and social significance—the ultimate goal being that of building a greater Georgia through the promotion of an intelligent understanding of the privileges and duties pertinent to a democratic society.

Reaching out from Atlanta, this forum project has radiated north, south, east and west carrying thought-provoking information which has proved of interest to the dwellers of exclusive Hunter Hills as well as their less fortunate fellowmen who must be content with places of abode in sordid Tan Yard Bottom and elsewhere. Wash women, domestics, share-croppers, turpentine workers, farmers, professional men and women, business executives, educators, and people of every walk of life, all are urged to participate in this program for civic betterment.

In 1936-1937 when the Office of Education was promoting its demonstration forums over the nation, Atlanta was one of the three southern centers which included Negroes in their activities—the other centers being Pulaski County (Arkansas) and Hamilton County (Tennessee). This was the first experience Negroes in Georgia had had with a community-wide system of forums; nevertheless, the results of the experiment were exceedingly favorable.

Since the advent of the Federal demonstration forums, further efforts have been made to stimulate continued interest in forums throughout the country. The U. S. Office of Education, in 1938-1939, cooperated with the Georgia State Department of Education in the promotion of a statewide forum movement. When the Georgia Public Forum Project, because of limited resources, made no provisions for forums among Negroes, D. B. Lasseter, National Deputy Administrator of the National Youth Administration, who was at that time Georgia Youth Administrator, sought permission to inaugurate a forum project for Negroes sponsored by the National Youth Administration for Georgia and supervised by its Division of Negro Affairs. This request being granted, the only statewide public forum program for Negroes had its inception. Under the present Georgia Youth Administrator, Boisfeuillet Jones, this project is being continued as a unit in the Georgia Public Forums Project of which Dr. Emily Woodward is Director.

In Thirty-Six Communities

During the past two years, Negroes in thirty-six rural and urban communities have participated in Georgia's forum program. Seventeen communities were reached during the first project, while thirty-four communities participated in 1939-1940 forum activities. Beginning this November, more than sixty Georgia towns and cities are expected to sponsor forum programs in cooperation with the National Youth Administration for Georgia.

The forums in the various communities are promoted by the project management through local sponsoring groups. For convenience of explanation, the types of forum sponsoring groups have been classified in three categories: town-wide or countywide citizens' committees, educational institutions, and civic organizations. To the sponsoring group of the local forum center falls the task of promoting the forum project in the community. Matters such as the selection of speakers and subjects, the arranging for places and time of meetings, and the publicizing of the forums are duties common to all sponsoring groups.

The securing of competent leaders has been one difficulty confronted in the furtherance of this project. Since in the past there have been no funds available with which to pay speakers, the forum centers have been forced to depend upon volunteer speakers and staff members of the National Youth Administration, Division of Negro Affairs, who have performed forum engagements in communities where NYA duties have warranted their presence. Such a set-up has had its disadvantage, for the forum centers were largely small towns in which there were very few competent forum leaders. Despite these handicaps and other difficulties involved in forum management, the Georgia project has been able to make a very definite contribution to the cultural and civic welfare of Georgians.

Wide Range of Topics

General topics discussed during the four-month period of the last season included subjects on citizenship, eco-

MOSS HYLES KENDRIX
Educational Supervisor, N. Y. A.

WILLIAM H. SHELL
Director, N.Y.A. for Georgia

nomics, social problems, politics, education, public welfare, and national and world affairs. In every instance, the various forum centers have indicated a pronounced interest in the discussion of subjects which affect them directly in their community life. From the most frequently discussed topics to the least discussed ones, there blossomed the flower of community interest which characterizes the underlying philosophy of the forum movement.

Under any condition, it is extremely difficult to evaluate a forum program by outlining its concrete accomplishments. Although certain problems of the community might be discussed by the forum group and methods of solution arrived at, the forum, as such, is not responsible for the execution of these solutions. In Georgia, during the two years that the forum project has been in existence, a number of wholesome gains have been attributed to its influences. Among these gains are listed outstanding developments in interracial relations, citizenship, education and health.

A number of persons are responsible for the accomplishments of this movement. The organizational set-up of the project and the methods by which the various factors leading to forum coordination were harnessed must be attributed to the untiring attention and supervision given the program by Dr. Nathaniel P. Tillman of Morehouse College and Atlanta University, who directed the project from its inception in 1938 until February, 1940. William H. Shell, Georgia NYA Assistant on Negro Affairs, as supervising officer of the Division of Negro Affairs, has played an outstanding role as an organizer and forum leader in the promotion of the program, as well as have the respective members of his Division. Far too numerous to be listed here are the many persons who have served the project as volunteer forum leaders and in other capacities.

Most Significant Step

Through the Statewide Public Forum Project for Negroes, light is being carried to the homes of Negroes and learning to those who had lost all hope of learning. With an increased interest in current civic, economic, political and social problems, there is destined to evolve among Negroes of Georgia a renewed evaluation of their relationship to their community and to their state. No more significant step in the education of Georgia's adult Negro population has ever been taken. The public forum is a beacon lighting the paths which lead to a new Georgia.

Places touched by the National Youth Administration sponsored Statewide Public Forum Project for Negroes in Georgia, 1938-1940: Albany, Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, Bainbridge, Boston, Brunswick, Calhoun, Cartersville, Cedartown, Colquitt, Columbus, Dalton, Forsyth, Fort Valley, Greenville, Jesup, Macon, Mayfield, McDonough, McIntosh, Montezuma, Quitman, Rome, Sandersville, Savannah (and Industrial College), Statesboro, Summerville, Talbottom, Tate, Thomasville, Valdosta, Cidalia, Vienna, Waycross, and West Point.

White House Blesses

(*Continued from page* 351)

from infantry to artillery, may be eliminated, at least partially, by examinations in their new duties. This procedure, if used, is an exact duplicate of the trickery of the War Department in the World War when it placed Negro infantry officers in an artillery regiment and then declared them to be a failure because they could not adjust themselves overnight.

The whole trend in the army is known to be against having any Negro officers. The present situation is a result of a long-range plan of the War Department which included: 1) no Negroes sent to West Point; 2) no Negroes accepted in the citizens' military training camps; 3) very little, if any, training for Negro reserve officers; 4) restricted training for Negroes in the R.O.T.C.

No Negro Aviators

Another point in the statement deals with Negroes in the air corps and gives the impression that the War Department is now training Negro pilots in the air corps. This is not true. As recently as October 1, Major General E. S. James, adjutant general, wrote a letter to a Negro youth in Brooklyn, N. Y., who had applied for the air corps, in which he stated: "Applications from colored persons for flying cadet appointment or for enlistment in the air corps are not being accepted."

Last year, an airport at Glenview, Ill., was designated as a training spot for Negroes in the army air corps, but not a single Negro has been enlisted by the army for this training and sent to Glenview. A few Negro students have been given the most elementary training in aviation by the Civilian Aeronautics Board at five Negro colleges, but none has been permitted to enlist for further training in the air corps.

National Defense Jobs

Another point in the White House statement is that Negro civilians are accorded equal opportunity for employment in arsenals and army posts.

There is very little evidence at hand to prove that Negroes are being given jobs either in army arsenals or in the thousands of industrial plants which have been given large contracts for national defense.

For Immediate Action

1) Write President Roosevelt opposing segregation in the army, especially an army that is supposed to be fighting for democracy. Tell the President, also, that Negroes are not satisfied with the jim-crow plan of the War Department as he asserted in his statement, and that the Negro enlisted men, as well as the Negro citizens at large, deeply resent the way they have been treated. Protest vigorously to the President against the misrepresentation of this association in the press story released by The White House, October 9.

2) Write the President and General George C. Marshall, chief of staff, protesting against the restrictions on Negro officers and demanding more of them. Also demand fair treatment for the Negro officers who are now in the army, and oppose attempts to eliminate them.

3) Write Major General H. H. Arnold, chief of the army air corps, and demand the enlistment and training of Negroes for the air corps.

4) Write to Commissioner Sidney Hillman, the Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense, Federal Reserve Building, Washington, D. C., and urge the wiping out of the color line in employment in plants having contracts for national defense.

Native Son

A Tribute to Richard Wright's Book

In it, but not of it.
Apart from the common fate,—
Watching the gay, white throngs,
Hearing their well-bred laughter;
Seeing the liquid fires of flashing neon signs;
But scurrying back to your hovel
Like a noisome rat of the night.

Hearing the drone of their war-birds;
The hum and the clash and the clangor
Of a million harnessed motors;
But never to feel the rush
Of strange winds in high places,
Or the power of a strong brown hand
Uplifted in creative toil.

Oh, native brother,
You, too, are America.
Freedom is in the air in infinitesimal forces;
Some day you too shall know
The love of your strong, white brother,
The clasp of his hand in yours,
And that all God's children are free.

—JANICE JOHNSON

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

Barkley Sounds Death of Anti-lynching Bill

In an attempt to obviate any further discussion of the anti-lynching bill during this session of Congress, Senate Majority Leader Alben Barkley told the Senate October 8 that he was "willing to take the responsibility of saying that in the midst of our international situation, our defense program . . . it is impractical at this time to make a futile effort to obtain a vote on the bill."

Admitting that invoking cloture (limitation of debate) would be the only means of getting a vote on the bill he said: "I have had a very careful personal and individual poll made of the members of the Senate on the Democratic side and on the Republican side, and in that effort the minority leader has cooperated, and it has been ascertained that cloture cannot be obtained at this time in order to have a vote on the anti-lynching bill. It is not only impossible to obtain the two-thirds vote necessary to adopt it, but it would not be possible to get a majority on either side of the Senate for cloture."

Barkley made the statement in response to a question put to him by Senator Warren Barbour of New Jersey who asked the Majority Leader "if there is to be an opportunity to bring up the anti-lynching bill in this session before we either adjourn or recess."

Enunciating his own position with respect to the bill the New Jersey Senator said: "As for myself, I most strongly and emphatically point out that this legislation has been passed over obviously too often and altogether too long, and should have consideration.

"I am wholeheartedly and sincerely in favor of it, not only because of the premise that it stands for, but because it represents even more than merely preventing lynching; it has become a symbol of tolerance as representing the true American attitude in relation to real equality, without prejudice as regards race, creed, or color."

Barkley accused the N.A.A.C.P. of putting him on the spot "because of the not only insistent but sometimes peremptory demands that, regardless of anything else, the anti-lyching bill be brought forward for consideration in the Senate."

As a final gesture the Majority Leader of the Senate told Barbour that he hoped the bill could be brought up "at an early date, either when we come back in November or at an early date in the next session."

Alabamans Go to Court Seeking Right to Vote

The right of local boards of registrars to arbitrarily bar Negroes from registering to vote was tested for the first time

The Chicago, Illinois membership campaign, directed by Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, raised $4122.80, with more money yet to be reported. The Chicago PANCAS (those who raised the individual quotas assigned to them or more) are: Seated, left to right: Mrs. Blanche Morris, Mrs. Violet Fortenberry, Cecelia G. McWhirter, Mrs. Effie M. Stewart, Mrs. Edna Gayle, first Panca, Miss Josephine McDaniel, James J. S. Keyes, Miss Georgia B. Finkley, Mrs. Blanche M. Smith; second row: Miss Elizabeth Galbreath, Mrs. Arnetta Cogwell, Mrs. Geneva G. Jenkins, Henrietta C. Williams, Mrs. Laura Dillard, Geneva Cobb, Emily B. Lane, Miss Lottie Gordon; third row: S. B. Fuller, Cicero Smith, Oscar C. Brown, R. Walter Abernathy, H. M. Spaulding, John Pitts, and William A. Little. Pancas not present when picture was taken: Roosevelt Phillips, second Panca, William Jackson, Gen. Spencer C. Dickerson, Mrs. Ruth Gordon, Mrs. Helen Brown, Mrs. Ethel Phillips, Thomas Strotter, Dr. C. V. Dudley, Mrs. Ruth Allison, Mrs. A. W. Beck, Mrs. Mabel Gipson, Mrs. C. Greene, Mrs. Dorothy Washington, Mrs. Nannie M. Williams, Mrs. Lucille McKinley, Miss Ethel Hillard, Mrs. Jeanette Triplette, Marion Downer, Mrs. I. H. Holloway, and Ethel Helena Smith

in Birmingham, Ala., Monday, October 14, when nine Negro citizens appeared before the circuit court of Jefferson county, Ala., to have their qualifications determined by a jury.

The nine persons who are represented by Arthur D. Shores, counsel for the local branch of the N.A.A.C.P., include: William Boswell, Jasper Townsend, Leslie B. Hutcherson, Willie P. Harris, Rufus E. Crosby, Edgar L. Howard, Willie J. Humphry, Claude Smith, and Alonzo Evans.

No word of the outcome of the hearing had been received by press time.

New Yorker Refused in Army Air Corps

Lt. Thomas Dale Davis, of the 369th coast artillery, anti-aircraft, formerly New York national guard, has been refused enlistment in the army air corps. His first application was made April 30, 1940, and was approved by a succession of officials, beginning with his captain and ending with a Lieutenant Colonel of the Adjutant General's office of the New York National Guard. Nevertheless, Lt. Davis was refused May 31, 1940, by Major F. A. Macon, assistant adjutant general in Washington, on the excuse that "there are no units composed of colored men."

N.A.A.C.P. Offers Legal Aid To Army Applicants

Court action against the Secretaries of War and Navy to compel the acceptance of all who volunteer for service in either of these branches of the country's defense forces, regardless of race or color, is promised by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The following resolution was passed unanimously by the Association's board of directors at its monthly meeting September 9:

"That the N.A.A.C.P. Legal Defense Committee give aid to any American citizen desiring to enlist in the Army or Navy, who is refused the privilege of enlisting on account of race or color, to the extent that it will institute appropriate, affirmative legal action against the Secretary of War or the Secretary of Navy as the case may be, to compel the Army or Navy to accept such volunteer into the armed or naval forces."

The membership campaign of the Baltimore, Maryland, branch reported a total of $4027.50. Some of the workers were: first row, seated, left to right: Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell, Campaign Director; Mrs. Florence Snowden, Dr. J. Leslie Jones, Mrs. Mary Ashton, Mrs. Edna Kenny, and Mrs. Ida Boyd; second row: Mrs. Katherine Satterfield, Charles Otho, Mrs. Bertha Black, Mrs. Geraldine Jackson, Mrs. Anna Houghton, Mrs. Ula Scott, Harry Biddle, William B. Hamer, Mrs. Hilda Hayes, and Mrs. Vernia Jones; back row: Braxton Powell, Irvin Johnson, Mesdames Jeanette Taylor, Laura Mitchell, Eva Bright, Mr. Lawrence Draper, Marion Pollette, and Earl Martin

Montgomery Launches Defense Job Drive

R. H. Harris has been appointed chairman of the Montgomery, Ala., N.A.A.C.P. branch committee which will seek to have Negroes employed in industrial firms here holding national defense contracts with the Government, it was announced by T. T. Allen, president of the branch.

C.I.O. Automobile Workers to Support Lynch Bill

Delegates to the recent convention of the United Automobile Workers of America, affiliated with the C.I.O., held in Detroit, voted unanimously to give "active support for the passage of the Federal anti-lynching bill." Copies of the resolution, the report said, were sent to the Governor of Tennessee, where the horrible lynching of N.A.A.C.P. official Elbert Williams took place; the N.A.A.C.P., Congress, and President Roosevelt.

Dies Asked to Probe Bombings in Dallas

Congressman Martin Dies, of Texas, who announced recently that his committee on un-American activities would investigate subversive activities by Communists, Fascists and other groups among Negroes in Dallas, was asked by the N.A.A.C.P., October 1, to investigate the Klan and the bombings of Negro homes in Dallas.

Branch News

Connecticut: The Bridgeport branch membership campaign was launched October 1.

Delaware: The Wilmington branch gave its annual dinner in October at which time Dean Hastie, of the Howard law school, and Dr. Robert G. Caldwell, of the University of Delaware, were guest speakers.

District of Columbia: The District branch reports that at the October 8th meeting, a nominating committee of seven was named to prepare a slate for submission at the annual election scheduled for November 12. Mrs. Willa Ransom was selected as temporary chairman of the committee, of which other members are: Pauline Wallace, Mrs. Ann Winston, Eugene Davidson, George C. Brice, George Goodman, and Dean Hastie. A motion calling for the nomination of Dr. Charles Edward Russell to serve another term on the National Board of Directors was passed unanimously. Recent activities of the branch include correspondence with District of Columbia Director of Selective Service A. L. Cox, regarding there being no distinction made in the registering of those within the age group on account of race, creed or color.

DEFENSE

Against These Evils:—

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—LYNCHING
—SEGREGATION
—EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITY
—DISFRANCHISEMENT
—POLICE TERRORISM
—LYING TEXTBOOKS

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HELP MAKE AMERICA REALLY *FREE*

Florida: Thurgood Marshall, Special Counsel of the national office, was a recent guest speaker for the youth council and the St. Petersburg branch at a mass meeting at Bethel Baptist church.

Georgia: Because the city council of Atlanta sought to raise millions of dollars to improve the local fire department, public school and hospital facilities, while cutting benefits to Negro citizens down to one-eighteenth of the total, more than 2,000 registered Negro voters, under the leadership of the Atlanta branch, defeated the $6,000,000 bond issue at the polls in September.

Illinois: The seventy-seventh anniversary of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Lincoln was observed in Prospect park with a memorial service and celebration sponsored by the Illinois colored citizens committee and the quad-city branch of the Association, of which Leon R. Harris of Moline, is president. J. H. Hill presided at the ceremony at Lincoln's tomb, where Senator Earl B. Searcy and Attorney George Nesbitt were principal speakers. One hundred and fifty Douglass Community players presented an outdoor pageant, "Out of the Dark," in the evening following an afternoon of picnicking and games.

Iowa: Mrs. Georgine Morris of Des Moines and state conference president, was the guest speaker at the Second Baptist church in September.

Kansas: The Kansas City branch sponsored a program recently at the First Baptist church. Dr. A. Porter Davis was the speaker, and the program also included the choir of the Pleasant Green Baptist church, and others. R. B. Brown is president of the branch and Rev. C. A. Pugh is pastor of the host church.

Maryland: The Baltimore branch closed a vigorous membership drive on October 10 with a meeting at Sharp Street Methodist church, when Walter White, National executive secretary, and the Rev. Buster Walker, one of the victims of the Brownsville terrorism, were principal speakers. Mrs. Juanita J. Mitchell was director of the campaign, which at last report had brought in over $4,000.00. It was expected that final results will show a sum of $5000. Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson is the president of this energetic and thriving branch.

Michigan: The Detroit branch, of which Dr. James J. McClendon is president, held a mass meeting the latter part of September, at which time Roy Wilkins, national assistant secretary of the Association and editor, spoke on "Negro Education and Democracy."

Missouri: Attorney S. R. Redmond, president of the St. Louis branch, was guest of the Charleston branch in September. After a dinner at the home of Rev. and Mrs. C. L. Williams, and a conference with the executive committee, Attorney Redmond addressed a large meeting at the Shiloh Baptist church, and presented a charter to the Charleston branch, which is a little less than a year old. The Hayti, Mo., branch, recently organized, is an outgrowth of this branch, and they are the only two in that section from St. Louis to the state line. The Charleston branch has a membership of about 100.

New Jersey: Dean William Pickens was guest speaker at the Morristown branch meeting September 30.

Following a meeting with the executive board on September 26, Dean Pickens was the speaker for the Bridgeton branch meeting at Bethel A.M.E. church.

The Orange branch presented Dean Pickens in September at the Oakwood Avenue YMCA. The topic was, "Colored People and the New World War."

New York: A combination call has been issued to all members by the New York branch for the October, November and December meetings, with special emphasis on sale of Christmas seals.

Nathan B. Rood, attorney for the Peekskill branch, and Chester A. Smith, honorary chairman, were speakers at a meeting of the executive committee at the home of Mrs. M. S. Taply. Plans are under way for a membership drive.

The Albany branch held its annual membership campaign September 15 through 27. Over 250 people joined during the course of the drive. E. Frederic Morrow, of the national office, conducted the campaign, and Mrs. George D. Bowks, president of the branch, worked very hard to put the campaign over. The branch drive was handicapped somewhat by the fact of the neighborhood churches' financial drives, but the campaign was deemed successful.

Pennsylvania: Among spokesmen who have threatened court action against the Commonwealth if provision is not made for Negro participation in the National Guard program, was Dr. Harry Greene, president of the Philadelphia branch after a meeting with Maj. General Edward Martin.

On October 1, the Chester branch presented Dean Pickens as guest speaker at a mass meeting at the Calvary Baptist

church. Dr. L. S. Moore is president of the branch.

The October meeting of the Media branch was held in the Lima U.A.M.E. church, at which time the address was made by Rev. M. W. Cohen, member of the Delaware Assistance Board. Mrs. Anna Williams rendered a soprano solo. Sebastian Hunter, chairman of the Special Events committee reported on plans for the Vesper Glee club recital in the Media High school on November 7. At a recent meeting of the executive committee, Burton E. Mayo was elected delegate to the Pennsylvania state conference of branches at Haverford October 26 and 27.

Virginia: The Roanoke branch recently mourning the death of their friend and president passed the following resolution of respect:

WHEREAS God in His infinite Wisdom has removed from our midst our beloved and esteemed friend and President of the Roanoke Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People since 1933 until his death, Mr. James A. Reynolds, and,

WHEREAS we the Officers and Members realize that both organization and the community at large have lost a staunch friend, loyal member, an inspiring presence, and invaluable co-worker.

Many times our work would have fallen short of our purpose, had not his courage held it up. Amid the gloom of indifference his faith was a shining light. May we accept his example as a challenge to our best efforts for furthering the work he loved so well.

RESOLVED: That we do sincerely mourn our loss and that we extend our deepest sympathy to his loved ones and friends, and a copy of these resolutions be inserted in the minutes of our organization and also sent to the immediate members of the family and published in the Crisis magazine.

The Halifax County branch presented Mrs. C. E. H. Daniel of the Information Division, Farm Security Administration, Washington, D. C., in a public address in September at the Halifax training school. Many listeners, it is reported, "never dreamed that anybody in Washington knew so much about the problems of the farmers, and thought no woman had any knowledge of successful, and progressive farming. . . ."

Washington: The Spokane branch observed the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation at the Lincoln monument with fitting ceremonies. An address "What the emancipation means to the Negro today," was delivered by Rev. L. S. McNeill. F. A. Stokes presided.

West Virginia: Dr. Dorothy B. Ferebee of Washington, D. C. was guest speaker at the first fall meeting of the Charleston branch. Dr. Ferebee is medical director of the health clinics that have been held in the South since 1935, sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Mrs. T. G. Nutter presided at the meeting and Dr. Maude Wanzer Layne, Director of Music in Kanawha county schools, was in charge of special music.

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VETERAN WORKER

Theodore M. Brinson, president of the San Diego, Calif., branch, has been active with the NAACP for 26 years. He won both perpetual membership trophies for 1940

Defense Training Program Bans Discrimination

Opportunities for Negro trainees under the national defense training program were increased this week when President Roosevelt signed the Supplementary Appropriations Bill which set aside $60,500,000 for defense training courses.

The measure, sent to the President for signature on October 7, contained an amendment banning discrimination against trainees because of sex, race, or color. The amendment also calls for the establishment of equitable training facilities for Negroes in those regions where separate schools are required by law for separate population groups. The section reads:

"No trainee under the foregoing appropriations shall be discriminated against because of sex, race, or color; and where separate schools are required by law for separate population groups, to the extent needed for trainees of each such group, equitable provision shall be made for facilities and training of like quality."

The passage of the amendment by the Senate and House of Representatives and its enactment into law supplements the announced labor policy of the National Defense Advisory Commission. This policy, incorporated into the Commission's statement of principles governing the awarding of negotiated defense contracts, declares:

"Workers should not be discriminated against because of age, sex, race or color."

Inquiry

How can you sing American?
With your souls baptized in glee,
Advertising your greatness,
Boasting of your victories—
While men denied justice
Are hanging from your trees?

—JOHN HENRIK CLARKE

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Book Reviews

THE FIRST NEGRO MEDICAL SOCIETY: A History of the Medico-Chirurgical of the District of Columbia, 1884–1939. By W. Montague Cobb, M.D., Ph.D. Washington: The Associated Publishers, 1939. X+159pp. $2.00.

"If a competent scholar," writes our author in his Foreword, "were to attempt the preparation of a representative history of the American Negro in medicine from the scattered sources now available, he would find such a dearth of data on so many important details that he would have to postpone his general account until numerous studies of particular phases had been completed. In the belief that anyone who can should help in this latter task, there is presented here an account of the first Negro medical society formed in America and probably in the world."

The first Negro medical society had its origin in the refusal of the American Medical Association and the Medical Society of Washington to admit qualified Negro physicians. Even the support of liberal white friends could not get the qualified Negro physician into either of these organizations, so the Negroes in 1884 formed the Medico-Chirurgical Society of the District of Columbia. Dr. Cobb's book is largely an account of the endeavors of the members of the Medico-Chirurgical Society to preserve valuable records, of their relations with the general public, and of their scholarly interests as revealed in their publications. Like so many Negro organizations, the Medico-Chirurgical Society seems to have put more emphasis on banquets and social affairs than on solid professional achievements. Dr. Cobb calls attention to the fact that the Society published no bulletins, journals, or other publications; that its printed record does not reveal even the existence of a budget; and that it failed to focus attention on the basic medical and social problems which beset a minority group. In a word, the Society seems to have suffered the usual evils of a segregated professional group. Dr. Cobb gives us an interesting story objectively told.

* * *

THE HISTORY OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY (A Brotherhood of Negro College Men), 1911 to 1939. By Herman Dreer. Published by the Fraternity, 1940. IV+331pp.

I doubt if even a Gibbon could read historic significance into the fraternal capers of a group of college undergraduates. As fraternities go, Omega Psi Phi is, I suppose, neither better nor worse than the thousands of other college Greek-letter clubs which decorate American campuses. Greek-letter societies are really nothing more than campus clubs where fellows of like sentiments, tastes, and habits may get together for their bull sessions, their liquor parties, and their hot dog fêtes. The highfalutin rhetoric of their constitutions and rituals is mere window-dressing.

What Mr. Dreer manages to dredge up out of the history of Omega consists largely of rolls of officers, doings at the annual conclaves, lists of chapters, comments on contents of the *Oracle*, lists of members of the Supreme Council, and an outline of Omega's national program. Organized November 11, 1911, by three Howard students, with the assistance of Dr. Ernest E. Just—Frank Coleman, Edgar Love, and Oscar J. Cooper—the Omega Psi Phi fraternity now has fifty-one undergraduate and sixty-one graduate chapters. The membership runs into the thousands. Omega deserves high praise for the interest which it has aroused in the study of Negro history. A good survey for reference, with the information arranged for the availability of every Omega brother.

* * *

100 AMAZING FACTS ABOUT THE NEGRO: With Complete Proof. By J. A. Rogers. New York: J. A. Rogers Publications, 37 Morningside Ave., 1940. 50pp. 50c.

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County of New York } ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Roy Wilkins, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of the THE CRISIS, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

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ROY WILKINS,
Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of October, 1940.

FRANK M. TURNER,
Notary Public.

[SEAL.]

(My commission expires March 30, 1942.)

Joe Charles King

(Continued from page 347)

"Why do you cook? Doesn't your mother—?"

"She cooks the oatmeal," he explained, "and leaves it in hot water. When I get up I cook the eggs. I help my sister to dress. We go to the day home then. I come to school at eleven. When I get out I go back to the day home. At five o'clock we go home." I decided to go there early one morning on my way to school. I wanted to meet his mother.

Accordingly, one morning I went through Pearl street. It is a wide, though unattractive street. The 1500 block belonged, apparently, to one man. He had cut the wide lots up into narrow ones and had built two rows of three-room houses, all exactly alike. Each had a tiny door yard in front.

I reached 1505. In the small space before the front door, flowers were blooming. Purple and yellow iris grew along the fence and a circular bed of nasturtiums flourished at one side of the walk. They made the little house look cool and inviting. I knocked at the door.

"Come in," called Joe Charles' voice. I went in. His voice had sounded from the back. "Come on in the kitchen, whoever you are," it further instructed. I obeyed. I followed the sound through two doors. I came upon Joe Charles in the last room. He was down on his knees, lighting an oil range.

My glance swept around me. It was a dainty kitchen. It was clean. White curtains, bordered with red checked material, were tied back at the high, narrow window. The floor covering was a congoleum rug, patterned in black and white. A white table, with a steel top, stood in the center of the floor. On the table was a blue bowl, containing two eggs. At each end of the table was a little bowl, decorated with ducks. Beside each little bowl a spoon was placed.

Seated at one end of the table was a little, fat brown girl. Her hair made a soft, hazy halo about her dimpled face. Her little blue dress was open at the neck. Her small feet were bare, but a pair of sandals of minute size, were sitting side by side beneath her chair. Joe Charles said, "NOW," with the air of one who has just accomplished a task. I noticed that the blue flame of the burner he had been lighting, now emerged from the top. He rose and turned toward me with a casual greeting, as though there was nothing unusual in my early visit.

"I am getting breakfast," he explained, and added with evident pride, "This is my sister." Her brown eyes were direct and admiring. "Are you Mrs. Winn?" she asked.

"Yes, I am. And you must be Lillian," I told her.

"Did Joe Charles tell you my name?" she asked.

"He told me all about you," I said.

"May I come to school with you today?" she wanted to know. I hedged quickly.

"Not today," I said. "But I will ask Mrs. Bell if you may come soon."

I filled both bowls with oatmeal from the double boiler. Joe Charles secured a bottle of milk and poured milk over each steaming mound. He sprinkled sugar on it and they ate while I scrambled the two eggs. I buttoned the little brown girl's dress and fastened the small sandals on her pretty feet. Somehow, I wanted to cry as I did these things. I thought of the little mother, who must work in the laundry or there might be no milk and cereal. I thought of the father who worked all week for only eight dollars. And these two poor babies were left alone to care for themselves.

My thoughts seemed to conjure the

(Continued on page 366)

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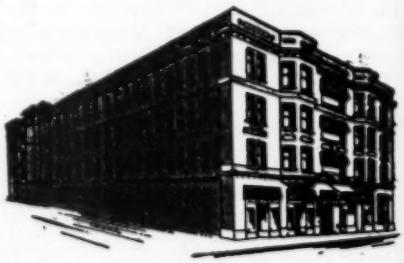

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HOT SPRINGS ARKANSAS

College and School News

(*Continued from page* 341)

versity's (Mo.) 10 flying students. He is one of the six licensed flight instructors in the U.S. and is widely known as an instructor at the Flying Dutchman airport, Philadelphia. He boasts a Commercial Pilot's license, a Radio-Telephone license, a Re-rated Flight Instructor's license, and membership in the National Aeronautical Association and the Aircraft Owners' and Pilots' Association, affiliated with the T.W.A. airlines.

Nathaniel P. Tillman (English), **Morehouse College,** was awarded his Ph.D. degree at the University of Wisconsin early in October. His field is English philology. He is a native of Birmingham, Ala., and has taught continuously at Morehouse since his graduation in 1920, except for two years at Alcorn College. He has won numerous scholastic honors, and is a member of several learned societies.

The freshman enrollment this term is 112.

New faculty members: Bernard W. Robinson of Rockford, Ill. (sociology) A.B. Morehouse '39 and A.M. Atlanta U. '40; and William Exum, Gary, Ind., (ass't physical ed.), Wisconsin U. '36.

New staff appointees: Miss Marjorie Green, Spelman '40 (Dean's office); Gerene Herndale Taylor, Morehouse grad. (ass't Bursar's office).

With Prof. Burwell T. Harvey (chemistry) as editor, The Morehouse Journal of Science, a quarterly which suspended publication in 1931, has been revived as official organ of the Alabama Association of Science Teachers and the Georgia Association of Teachers of Science in Negro Schools. Many excellent articles appear in the first issue.

Atlanta University's Dr. Joseph A. Pierce (mathematics) has prepared "The Atlanta Negro", with the assistance of Marion M. Hamilton of the University. It was sponsored and is published by the American Youth Commission of the American Council on Education, in cooperation with the N. Y.A. of Georgia.

Miss Marion M. Speight of Memphis, Tenn., M.A. '40, and Miss Mary E. Cater of Atlanta, Spelman '40 have won scholarships to the Ecole Normale des Instituteurs, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, as exchange students. They will assist in the English department.

The freshman enrollment at **Storer College** is 66, the largest in its history. The total enrollment is 160. Faculty additions are: Miss Neva B. Tucker (English), Cleveland, O., A.M. Western Reserve U.; Mrs. Estelle M. Bullard, Nashville, Tenn., A.M. Columbia U. (Home Econ.); Mrs. Mamie Belle Mackley, Arlington, Va., Storer Jr. College and Apex System of Beauty Culture (Beauty Culture); Rev. F. R. Austin, Clifton Forge, Va., A.M. Oberlin College (Religious Education).

Tuskegee Institute has added five new cub planes to its primary flight training set-up. A new three-plane hangar on Kennedy Field has been completed. The third unit began October 16, with 30 students. On that date ten Negro youths selected from various Negro colleges that offered primary courses began advanced training under C. Alfred Anderson, noted pilot. Tuskegee trainees in this secondary course share the flying field at Auburn with the student pilots of Alabama Polytechnic (white).

Dillard University enrollment for the first semester 1940-41 reached 332, the highest in its history and six per cent over the first semester last year. Thomas E. Watson of Detroit, Mich., was elected president of the Class of '44, Margie Dickerson of New Orleans was chosen secretary, and Lucien Lewis of New Orleans was elected treasurer.

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Missouri Boot-Heel

(*Continued from page* 349)

The sharecropper demonstration, however it may have been intended, was an equally definite statement of those problems—too many people for the available land, and a steady shrinkage in the number of farm units on that land.

Machines for Men

The racial implications in the situation were slight. Farm workers and farmers, black and white, were being displaced by machinery. Their realization of their common plight was clearly evidenced by their attitude of mutual support under extremely difficult conditions throughout the demonstration and after it.

The croppers knew that whatever the contributory factors might be, they were being replaced mainly because tractor-power, on a per hour basis of work accomplished, and on an annual basis of over-all expense, was cheaper than man-power. For every small farmer forced off the land by the unequal competition of power-farming, a farm is "lost." The census registers one farm less, while a big unit simultaneously expands by the sixty, or eighty or one hundred acres that were in the "lost" farm.

In the past five years, 16,146 farms have been "lost" in Missouri. Many of these were in the rich delta lands of the "boot-heel." Estimating these units conservatively at sixty-five acres each, that is more than a million acres in family-sized farms lost to one state—a state that is listed as one of the five contributing most heavily to Pacific Coast migration.

Under Phillip G. Beck, Regional Director for the Farm Security Administration, a five-way program for making small farms workable and stabilizing living conditions among farm workers, has been started in the seven cotton counties.

The standard rehabilitation loan program, providing farmers with short-term, five per cent loans for the purchase of working equipment and livestock, is being rapidly expanded, as a first means of relieving pressure.

Group Labor Homes

As a second measure, productive land is being acquired wherever this is available and group labor homes for agricultural workers constructed on it. These homes, built at a cost of $750 each, are rented at an annual rate averaging four to five percent of construction costs. In Mississippi, New Madrid, and Pemiscot counties, just beyond the spillway of the Mississippi, group labor units are already providing landless croppers with homes and a livelihood.

Still another part of the program is the long-term leasing of large tracts, subsequently subleased to FSA borrowers.

At Portage Farms, in Pemiscot county, on the Arkansas border, both Negro and white families are successfully working the land on a leasing cooperative of this type. As at Hill House in Mississippi, a mixed board of Negro and white homesteaders directs farm activities.

In contrast to the group labor homes are the scattered labor homes—a fourth development aimed to encourage the retention of agricultural labor on the land under satisfactory conditions.

Scattered labor homes are built on land provided by cooperating owners, and are occupied rent free by sharecroppers working for the owners, and growing subsistence gardens and stock feed and raising cattle, hogs, and poultry with technical help from Farm Security workers. Security of tenure is assured under Government-landlord agreements, safeguarding the rights of both cropper and owner. Seventy per cent of the construction cost of $500 is borne by the owner, who also provides three acres for the farmstead.

There is food for thought in an area where "a sharecropper with a piece of land to work is a person to be envied."

Finally, a labor rehabilitation plan supplies garden seed, canning equipment and similar needs to day laborers, where such families can secure small tracts of land to cultivate, rent free. There again, controlling owners are brought into the program on a cooperating basis.

Southeast Missouri has become acutely conscious of two questions of growing import to Southern farming:

Is there any security short of ownership?

Is there economy in an increased income based on the displacement of families who, if not supported directly by the land they do work, must eventually be supported indirectly by the land they do not work?

Planters are wondering—and watching. Some are showing more than casual interest in the new program. Croppers and small farmers are watching also.

There has been much talk about what constitutes an "economic unit" in terms of agricultural operations. An agricultural college sophomore could recite the formula. But Southeast Missouri, that has been living in the most approved "economic" style, is learning the hard way that cheaply produced crops alone, provide security for no one. It is harvesting the results that economic theorists shrug away.

It may be that the agricultural developments now going on in the Missouri proving ground will answer the question of democracy's ability to include the meeting of human need in its criteria for the operations of "economic units" of any kind.

Joe Charles King

(*Continued from page* 364)

father out of nowhere for I heard his footsteps and his call. He was in the kitchen before I could rise from my knees, where I had knelt to put on the baby sandals. He was as much surprised as I was embarrassed. I explained that I came thus early to see Mrs. King and had helped the children get breakfast. He smiled. He was very young. His clean, brown khaki suit showed, as yet, no traces of coal. His teeth were even and beautiful. He spoke correctly and charmingly:

"You will have to come some Thursday. Lillian has a half day off then. Why didn't you tell her, Joe Charles?"

"She didn't ask me," mumbled Joe Charles into his bowl.

"He didn't know I was coming," I said. "Aren't you afraid to let him light fires, and to leave them alone like—" He held up his hand to silence me.

"Of course we are," he said simply. "But we don't tell him. We tell Joe Charles he is big enough to be careful. We teach him he must take care of his sister. He really is very careful. I always come by with my first load of coal to see about them. I usually snatch long enough to get them away and wash the dishes. Lillian likes things clean."

"It is really wonderful the way you manage," I said. Between us we had washed the dishes and I prepared to leave. He caught me at the gate.

"If you come back Thursday, don't mention about lighting fires. Lillian will just worry and—what else can we do?" he finished. I could see the anxiety in his lean, brown face.

"Of course, I won't," I told him. "I shouldn't have said so to you. Joe Charles is such a little man. I know he will always be careful. He *is* unusual, you know. I think he is splendid." He was relieved, and proud of my praise of his son, who was so like him. I hurried away to school, thinking of the hard lessons of the poor. Here, I knew, were four wonderful persons, working together and loving each other with unselfish devotion.

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